

'RECKLESS'

JOSH LEDERMAN
MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday warned North Korea to halt a recent spate of rhetoric and actions, calling them provocative, dangerous and reckless. He also vowed that the United States would defend itself and its allies South Korea and Japan from North Korean threats. Kerry's comments came after North Korea ratcheted up an almost daily string of threats toward the



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaks at a news conference at the State Department in Washington, on Tuesday, April 2, 2013.
(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

three nations with an announcement that it would revive a long-dormant nuclear reactor and ramp up production of atomic weapons material. Speaking to reporters at a joint news conference with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se, Kerry said the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK, knows that the U.S. is fully prepared and capable of defending itself and its allies.

"The bottom line, very simply, is that what Kim Jong Un has been choosing to do is provocative, it is dangerous, reckless, and the United States will not accept the DPRK as a nuclear state," Kerry said, referring to North Korea's young new leader.

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Toxic Problem



Workers at the tank farms on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash., measure for radiation and the presence of toxic vapors. A nuclear safety board has warned a key U.S. senator that underground tanks holding radioactive waste at the nation's most contaminated nuclear site pose a possible risk of explosion.

(AP Photo/Jackie Johnston)

Board: Risk of tank explosion at Hanford

SHANNON DININNY
Associated Press

YAKIMA, Washington (AP)

— Underground tanks that hold a stew of toxic, radioactive waste at America's most contaminated nuclear site pose a possible risk of explosion, a nuclear safety board said in advance of confirmation hearings for the next leader of the Energy Department.

State and federal officials have long known that hydrogen gas could build up inside the tanks at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, leading to an explosion that would release radioactive material. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board recommended additional monitoring and ventilation of the tanks

last fall, and federal officials were working to develop a plan to implement the recommendation.

The board expressed those concerns again Monday to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, who is chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and had sought the board's perspective about clean-up at Hanford.

The federal government created Hanford in the 1940s as part of the secret Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb. It spends billions of dollars to clean up the 586-square-mile (1518-square-kilometer) site neighboring the Columbia River, the southern border between Washington and Oregon and

the Pacific Northwest's largest waterway.

Federal officials have said six underground tanks at the site are leaking into the soil, threatening the groundwater, and technical problems have delayed construction of a plant to treat the waste for long-term safe disposal.

Those issues are likely to come up during confirmation hearings next week for Energy Secretary-nominee Ernest J. Moniz.

The fears of explosion and contamination could give Washington and Oregon officials more clout as they push for cleanup of the World War II-era site.

Central to the cleanup is the removal of 56 million gallons (212 million liters)

of highly radioactive, toxic waste left from plutonium production from underground tanks. Many of the site's single-shell tanks, which have just one wall, have leaked in the past, and state and federal officials announced in February that six such tanks are leaking anew.

The nuclear safety board warned about the risk of explosion to Wyden, who wanted comment on the safety and operation of Hanford's tanks, technical issues that have been raised about the design of a plant to treat the waste in those tanks, and Hanford's overall safety culture.

Continued on Page 3

Rape, kidnap of tourists has Brazilians on edge

JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A night on the town turned into a six-hour-long nightmare after an American woman was gang raped and beaten aboard a public transit van while her handcuffed French boyfriend looked on helplessly, in an incident that's shocked this resort city as it gears up to host next year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

The police response to the attack was swift: The three alleged perpetrators, aged 20 to 22, have all been taken into custody, and investigators are combing databases to determine whether the men might have been behind any other crimes.

Many still ask whether Rio authorities, who have succeeded in cracking down on much of the city's drug violence, are up to the task of protecting the waves of tourists expected to flood the city during the upcoming double-header of mega-events. Some 2 million people are also expected to flock to the city in late July for World Youth Day, a Roman Catholic pilgrimage that Pope Francis is scheduled to attend.

Some observers said the attack came as a particular shock given that safety has improved at least in the city's tourist-friendly, seaside South Zone neighborhoods. Foreigners and moneyed local residents who even three or four years ago would have hesitated to hail a taxi in the street or walk around after dark now do both without thinking twice.

"No one expects to be attacked in Disneyland, handcuffed and roughed up," Globo newspaper quoted Alfredo Lopes, the head of an association representing Brazil's hotel sector. "Copacabana is our Disneyland."

Yet it was in that very beachfront neighborhood, full of senior citizens in bikinis by day but seedier by night, that the two foreigners hailed one of the fleet of public transit vans often used as a speedier alterna-

tive to buses. Police investigating the case say the two foreigners, both in their early-20s, were headed shortly after midnight Saturday to Lapa, a popular downtown nightlife hotspot where Rio's youth converges on clubs, bars

The three suspects took turns raping the woman and beating the man, whom they handcuffed and sometimes struck with a metal crowbar, Braga told a news conference Tuesday.

The suspects split up the

back to Rio, where the foreigners were staying, and forced the woman to fetch another credit card, Braga said.

Although she was alone, she didn't call the police or alert anyone, Braga said, "because the young man

unidentified country's consulate, where officials took the two to the special police delegation that specializes in crimes against foreigners. The young woman has returned to the U.S., while the man remains in Rio to help with the investigations, Braga said.

"The victims recognized the three without a shadow of a doubt," Braga said. The men's mug shots were also recognized by another woman who said she'd been raped by the three under similar circumstances last month. Another foreigner has said she'd been robbed by one of the three suspects, police said. Two of the suspects have confessed to Saturday's attack, while the third denies any responsibility.

"They do not show any repentance," Braga said. "They are quite indifferent, cold."

He said the men appeared to work as legitimate van operators, with crime an occasional side venture.

Australian visitors Emma Richardson and Jason Sestic said they have been taking extraordinary precautions throughout their weeklong stay in Rio.

"We've stayed well away from Copacabana and the beach areas at night because of Lonely Planet," said Sestic, referring to the famous backpackers' guidebook. □



Suspects Wallace Aparecido Souza Silva, left, Carlos Armando Costa dos Santos, center, and Jonathan Foudakis de Souza are presented to the press at the Special Police Unit for Tourism Support (DEAT) after being arrested for allegedly attacking tourists in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, April 2, 2013. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

and samba venues. But the pair never made it to their destination. A few minutes into their journey, the van operators forced the other passengers off and inflicted on the two foreigners what Alexandre Braga, the police officer leading the investigation, has called a "party of evil."

driving, ending up in Rio's sister city of Niteroi across Guanabara Bay, where they went on a spending spree with the foreigners' credit cards.

Once they hit the limit on both cards, spending around \$500 at gas stations and convenience stores, the suspects drove the pair

was still under the suspects' control and she feared something even worse might happen to him."

Some six hours after they were kidnapped, the two were dumped by the side of a highway near the city of Itaboraí, some 50 kilometers from Rio. They managed to make it to an

Francis marks anniversary of John Paul II death

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis prayed Tuesday before the tomb of Pope John Paul II on the eighth anniversary of the beloved pontiff's death in what the Vatican said was evidence of Francis' "profound spiritual continuity" with popes past.

In his three weeks as pope, Francis has jolted the Catholic Church with several gestures that broke with papal tradition, including renouncing certain liturgical vestments, choosing to live in the Vatican hotel rather than the papal apartments, and washing the feet of a Muslim wom-

an during a Holy Thursday ritual re-enacting Jesus Christ's washing of his apostles' feet.

But Francis has also visited with his immediate predecessor, Benedict XVI, and spoken on the phone with him at least three times. And on Monday, he visited the tomb of St. Peter, the first pontiff, which is located in the necropolis underneath St. Peter's Basilica.

On Tuesday, he waited until the basilica was closed to the general public to visit the tomb of John Paul II, the Polish pope who died in 2005.

The tomb is located in the St. Sebastian chapel, just inside the entrance of the

basilica.

He also prayed before the tombs of Popes Pius X and John XXIII.

"As with the visit yesterday to the tomb of St. Peter and the Vatican grottoes, this evening's visit to the basilica expresses the profound spiritual continuity of the popes' petrine ministry, which Pope Francis lives and feels intensely, as he has shown repeatedly with his phone calls to his predecessor Benedict XVI," the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said in a statement.

Traditionalist Catholics have been devastated by some of Francis' gestures, which they have seen as a

rejection primarily of efforts by Benedict XVI to revive the pre-Vatican II tradition of the church, including much of the pomp of the papacy.

As a result, Francis' visit to the tomb of Pope Pius X was particularly significant. Pius X, who lived from 1835-1914, is known to some degree as the anti-modern pope: He wrote an encyclical on the dangers of "modernism" in church doctrine and is the namesake of the schismatic group of traditionalist Catholics, the Society of St. Pius X, with whom Benedict tried unsuccessfully to reconcile during his eight-year pontificate. □

UN adopts treaty to regulate global weapons trade

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly approved the first international treaty regulating the multibillion-dollar global arms trade Tuesday, after a more than decade-long campaign to keep weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists, warlords, organized crime figures and human rights violators.

Loud cheers erupted in the assembly chamber as the electronic board flashed the final vote: 154 in favor, 3 against and 23 abstentions.

"This is a victory for the world's people," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "The Arms Trade Treaty will make it more difficult for deadly weapons to be diverted into the illicit market. ... It will be a powerful new tool in our efforts to prevent grave human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law."

The United States, the world's biggest arms exporter, voted yes.

Iran, North Korea and Syria — all facing arms embargoes — cast the only no votes. They argued, among other things, that the agreement favors major arms suppliers like the U.S. over importers that need weapons for self-defense.

Russia and China, which are also major arms exporters, abstained along with India and Indonesia, while nuclear-armed Pakistan voted in favor. Many Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Qatar, abstained, while Lebanon voted yes.

Never before has there been a treaty regulating the global arms trade, which is estimated to be worth \$60 billion today and which Amnesty International predicts will exceed \$100 billion in the next four years.

What impact the treaty will actually have remains to be seen. It will take effect 90 days after 50 countries ratify it. □

Kerry warns North Korea on provocations

Continued from front

A North Korean official said the country would quickly begin "readjusting and re-starting" the facilities at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex, including the

Still, both Kerry and his South Korean counterpart said the door remained open for North Korea to return to multi-national nuclear disarmament talks.

Yun said those talks remain a "useful tool" for get-

ing relationship with North Korea but that Seoul would respond to provocations from Pyongyang. It was critical that the U.S. and South Korea continue to enhance their defense capabilities, he said.

would be "extremely alarming" but added: "There's a long way to go between a stated intention and actually being able to pull it off." Still, the Pentagon suggested the administration is concerned about the prospect for further escalation of tensions and it has made a conspicuous display of firepower in recent weeks, sending B-52 and B-2 bombers on practice runs over South Korea, as well as deploying F-22 stealth fighters and repositioning a missile-defense ship off the Korean coast. These moves and others are meant to deter North Korea from launching even a limited military strike against the South, while also offering reassurance to Seoul that the U.S. will stick to its treaty obligation to defend the South against attack.

"We are looking for the temperature to be taken down," Pentagon spokesman George Little told reporters. "We are in the business of assuring our South Korean allies that we will help defend them in the face of threats."

At the White House, press secretary Jay Carney called on Russia and China, two countries he said have influence with North Korea, to use that influence to persuade the North to change course.

North Korea's recent tide of nuclear vows and aggressive threats are seen as efforts to force Washington into disarmament-for-aid talks and to boost Kim Jong Un's stature as a strong military leader. Pyongyang has reacted angrily to U.S.-South Korean military drills and a new round of U.N. and U.S. sanctions that followed North Korea's Feb. 12 underground nuclear test. Although world leaders have largely shrugged off the threats as more of the same from North Korea, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Tuesday that the North appears to be "on a collision course with the international community," adding that the current crisis has gone too far. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, right, enters a news conference with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-Se, at the State Department in Washington, on Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

plutonium reactor and a uranium enrichment plant. It had been shuttered as part of international nuclear disarmament talks in 2007 that have since stalled.

Kerry said such a step would be "a direct violation" of North Korea's international commitments and a "very serious step." "It would be a provocative act and completely contrary to the road we have traveled for all these years," Kerry said.

ting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, although he conceded it would be a very difficult task. "We should continue these efforts," he said.

"If North Korea decides to give up its nuclear ambitions and to become a member of the international community, we are prepared to resume talks" for peace on the Korean Peninsula, he said.

Yun said South Korean President Park Geun-hye is open to building a trust-

The White House said President Barack Obama's entire national security team was focused on North Korea, although some U.S. officials did cast doubt on whether North Korea would follow through on its threat to restart the reactor, portraying the latest threat as part of a pattern of antagonistic taunts that, so far, have not been backed up by action.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said that development

Risk of tank explosion at Hanford

Continued from front

In addition to the leaks, the board noted concerns about the potential for hydrogen gas buildup within a tank, in particular those with a double wall, which contain deadly waste that was previously pumped out of the leaking single-shell tanks.

"All the double-shell tanks

contain waste that continuously generates some flammable gas," the board said. "This gas will eventually reach flammable conditions if adequate ventilation is not provided."

All of the tanks are actively ventilated, which means they have blowers and fans to prevent a buildup of hydrogen gas, and those systems are monitored to en-

sure they are operating as intended, Energy Department spokeswoman Carrie Meyer said. "DOE is absolutely committed to ensuring the safety of Hanford's underground tanks," Meyer said. The U.S. government spends about \$2 billion annually on Hanford cleanup — roughly one-third of its entire budget for nuclear cleanup nationally. □

In report, NRA makes case for arming educators

SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

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WASHINGTON — With the Senate set to debate gun control this month, a National Rifle Association task force released a 225-page report Tuesday that called for armed police officers, security guards or staff members in every U.S. school, and urged states to loosen gun restrictions to allow trained teachers and administrators to carry weapons.

Asa Hutchinson, a former Republican congressman from Arkansas who led the task force, unveiled the report at a packed news conference with unusually heavy security, including a bomb-sniffing yellow Labrador retriever. A dozen officers in plain clothes and uniforms stood watch as he spoke; one warned photographers to "remain stationary" during the event. Among the study's central conclusions is that "the presence of armed security personnel adds a layer of security and diminishes response time" in a shoot-

ing, Hutchinson said. He cited a 1997 Mississippi incident in which an assistant principal ran to his truck to retrieve a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol and subdued a gunman who had already shot two students. The recommendations — which also included expanding the police presence in schools — drew immediate criticism from gun control advocates and many Democrats, who have been fighting to tighten gun restrictions after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., in December.

"Arming the teacher is merely a response to the last tragedy," said Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Calif., who is chairman of a House task force on gun violence. "The one before that was in a shopping mall in Oregon, and the one before that was in a movie theater in Colorado. I don't think the proper response is to arm all the projectionists in the movie theaters or all the vendors in the mall."

After the Newtown shooting, Wayne LaPierre, the rifle association's executive director, announced that the association would

even though it paid for the study, and LaPierre was not present Tuesday. But critics see no distinction between the two.



Mark Mattioli, whose son was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, during an announcement by former Rep. Asa Hutchinson (R-Ark.) of the findings of a report by the National School Shield Task Force, an initiative funded by the National Rifle Association, during a news conference in Washington, April 2, 2013.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

come up with a plan to put armed guards in every school.

Technically, Hutchinson's task force is independent of the rifle association,

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, an advocacy group here, criticized the study as "nothing more than a continuation of the

NRA's attempts to prey on America's fears, saturate our schools with more guns and turn them into armed fortresses."

But the report did get support from at least one Newtown parent: Mark Mattioli, whose 6-year-old son, James, was killed at Sandy Hook. "I think politics needs to be set aside here, and I hope this doesn't lead to name-calling," said Mattioli, who joined Hutchinson at the news conference. "This is a recommendation for solutions, real solutions that will make our kids safer. That's what we need." The panel called on the Homeland Security, Education and Justice departments to coordinate school safety efforts and provide grant money for schools to assess their ability to prevent and respond to attacks. It recommended that officers or employees who are armed take a 40-60 hour training course to be developed by the rifle association based on a model the task force has designed. □

Background checks still stumbling block in gun debate

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

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WASHINGTON — With Senate Democrats still struggling to line up support, the success or failure of President Barack Obama's four-month campaign to

overhaul gun laws will likely revolve around a single provision: a proposal to expand federal background checks for gun purchases. Background checks, both advocates and independent researchers say, would

have a bigger potential effect on gun violence than any other measure under consideration — including the much-discussed assault-weapons ban, which has little chance of passing in Congress. Proposed

federal gun-trafficking laws and changes to mental health databases would have a marginal effect, experts say.

But even though around 90 percent of those polled in public surveys support background checks, the fight for it and the rest of the first major piece of gun control legislation since 1993 faces a difficult test. On Tuesday, Senate aides said that formal debate and substantive votes on the gun issues would probably slip to the week of April 15 — a setback considering that Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, had pledged that it would be the first issue to come up when Congress returns from spring recess next week.

Background checks are central to the delay. Efforts to reach a compromise between Sens. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and Tom

Coburn, R-Okla., have foundered. Separate talks between Sens. Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., and Mark Steven Kirk, R-Ill., have also yet to yield a breakthrough.

"The background-check piece is the single most important thing we can do right now to make a difference," said Pia Carusone, the executive director of Americans for Sensible Solutions, the advocacy group formed by Gabrielle Giffords, the former Arizona congresswoman, and her husband, Mark Kelly, after Giffords was shot in the head in Tucson, Ariz., in 2011.

"If the background check bill doesn't pass Congress," Carusone said, "we are not going to be happy."

Obama will push for the legislation Wednesday not far from the site of a movie theater massacre in Colorado last year. □

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Atlanta: Divisions exposed as bail is set in school case



Warren Fortson, attorney for Theresia Copeland, a testing coordinator indicted in a cheating scandal, speaks to reporters outside the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta, April 2, 2013. Some of the 35 defendants accused of cheating on standardized tests in Atlanta Public Schools began turning themselves in to be booked on Tuesday.

(Rich Addicks/The New York Times)

**KIM SEVERSON
ROBBIE BROWN**
© 2013 New York Times

ATLANTA — Confusion, anger and charges of racism played out at the Fulton County Jail here Tuesday as the arduous process of booking 35 educators in the nation's largest school-cheating scandal began. The biggest focus was on Beverly L. Hall, the former school superintendent who rose through the education ranks in Newark, N.J., and New York City and who was named superintendent of the year during her 12 years with the Atlanta district.

A grand jury charged Hall and the other educators Friday with essentially running a conspiracy in which standardized test scores were secretly raised as a way to get bonuses and ensure job security.

As the day unfolded Tuesday, however, it became clear that the judicial system was unprepared for the initial stages of the prosecution.

The teachers, principals and administrators had been told that they had to report to jail by Tuesday, at which time they could argue to have bail amounts as high as \$7.5 million reduced. As evening came, only 17 had been processed, but several had won a break in their bond requirements.

Most notably, Hall negotiated her \$7.5 million bond —

considered a largely punitive figure set by the grand jurors, some of whom argued for it to be \$10 million — down to \$200,000. She was allowed to use her signature to cover \$150,000 of it, with the rest to be paid in cash, said David Bailey, one of her lawyers. She will pay only 10 percent of that and most of it will be refunded, he said. Hall arrived at the jail to be processed around 7:30 p.m. surrounded by her lawyers. It was unclear how long she would be there.

Lawyers for the defendants, saying they were baffled by what appeared to be a lack of coordination between District Attorney Paul L. Howard Jr., the jail and the courts, were working to try to reduce the amount of bond set for teachers who had no criminal records and to keep them from spending time in jail. One of the earliest to arrive was Theresia Copeland, 56, who had been testing coordinator at a southeast Atlanta elementary school. She walked into the jail about 7 a.m. and was booked on a \$1 million bond on charges of racketeering, theft and making false statements.

"We've never had anything in education like this," said Warren Fortson, a lawyer for Copeland and two other teachers.

"Al Capone, I understand, didn't have to post a \$1 million bond," he said. "I

don't think a Cobb County grandmother needs \$1 million to secure her."

Later, Copeland's bail was reduced to \$50,000. Others also secured reduced bonds. Only one educator was still under a \$1 million bond by Tuesday evening, said a spokeswoman for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, Tracy Flanagan. All totaled, the educators face 65 charges in a cheating scandal that first came to light in 2009. A team of state-appointed investigators spent 21 months looking into allegations that teachers and administrators at a handful of Atlanta schools had routinely changed test scores or given students correct answers. That report became the basis for the criminal charges issued Friday. □

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South Carolina: Sanford wins primary for old House seat

BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C.

(AP) — Former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford on Tuesday cleared another hurdle in his bid for a political comeback, defeating a former county council member to win the GOP nomination for a vacant U.S. House seat.

With 96 percent of precincts reporting, Sanford had about 57 percent of the vote to 43 percent for Curtis Bostic, a former Charleston County Council member. The candidates were vying Tuesday in a GOP runoff in the 1st Congressional District, which covers the south coast.

Sanford will face Elizabeth Colbert Busch and Green Party candidate Eugene Platt in a May special election. She is the sister of political satirist Stephen Colbert.

The former three-term congressman and two-term governor saw his political career sidelined four years ago when he disappeared from the state only to return and confess to an extramarital affair with an Argentine woman to whom he is now engaged.

Earlier Tuesday, Sanford



Former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford.
(AP Photo)

said that results from the primary would give a good indication whether voters have moved past his personal indiscretions.

"I think tonight's verdict will say a lot as to where people are or are not on that," Sanford said after voting in his downtown Charleston precinct. "I suppose at some level, I will never completely move beyond that."

Tuesday's win comes two weeks after Sanford led a 16-candidate field in a GOP primary for his old congressional seat. This is Sanford's first campaign since he revealed the af-

fair.

Bostic collected only about 13 percent of the vote in the primary voting two weeks ago, narrowly defeating state Sen. Larry Grooms for second place. Although Bostic had little time to overcome Sanford's high name recognition, Bostic said he liked his chances as he visited with voters in a suburban Charleston precinct before the polls closed.

"People dismiss us," the attorney and retired Marine said. "But we believe strongly the best way to win elections is through relationships and we have worked really hard to do that."

Bostic himself did not vote in the GOP runoff on Tuesday because he can't.

His residence near Ravenel, S.C., is in the 6th Congressional District, represented by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, about 1,500 yards from the 1st District line. Bostic's law office, other property, church and children's schools are in the district. Under federal law, to run for the U.S. House, one only need to be a resident of the state in which the district is located, not the district itself.

Feds: Man stole US cancer data to study in China

DINESH RAMDE

M.L. JOHNSON

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Suspicion quickly fell on a research assistant who had been working in a scientist's lab when three vials of a possible cancer-fighting compound disappeared recently from the professor's desk at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Security video showed Hua Jun Zhao, who studied in China and whose wife lives there, was the only person who entered the professor's office that day. Investigators later found research results from another fellow professor on Zhao's computer. Zhao has been charged in a federal complaint with economic espionage, accused by prosecutors of stealing academic research to pass off as his own in China. Prosecutors said he hoped to study the compound and other materials at Zhejiang University, one of several Chinese schools that have been troubled by plagiarism, fraud and academic misconduct.

Zhao, 42, worked on a team led by professor Marshall Anderson, who is researching whether the compound can help kill cancer cells without damaging healthy ones, school spokeswoman Maureen Mack said. The compound is still being studied in a lab and has not yet advanced to clinical testing, she said. The stolen vials of the C-25 powder are worth \$8,000, the complaint said. Leonard Peace, an FBI spokesman in Milwaukee, said he couldn't comment beyond what was in the complaint, except to confirm the vials had not been recovered.

Anderson noticed the vials missing on Feb. 22. School security video showed Zhao was the only person who entered Anderson's office that day. Federal investigators questioned him about the vials on Feb. 27,



Hua Jun Zhao, 42, a researcher at the Medical College of Wisconsin, is charged with espionage after prosecutors say he stole details of a cancer-fighting compound that he wanted to share with China.
(AP Photo/MCSO)

but Zhao claimed he did not understand their questions, the complaint said. The school immediately placed him on administrative leave.

Zhao's co-workers told the FBI that Zhao spoke excellent English and he had lived in the U.S. for many years. Mack declined to say how long Zhao worked at the school and would not provide details of his immigration status, referring questions to the FBI.

Zhao was arrested March 29 and charged with economic espionage, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine. A judge on Monday ordered him held at Milwaukee County Jail until trial. No trial date has been set but a preliminary hearing is scheduled for April 11.

Zhao's public defender, Juval Scott, said it was too early to comment on the case. "Right now I know that a talented professional has been accused of a serious crime," she said in an email, "and our office looks forward to rolling up our sleeves and working on his behalf."

Zhao, who has a wife in China, traveled to the country in December. Since his return in mid-February, he has claimed on his resume that he's an assistant professor at Zhejiang University, the complaint said.

Economist: spill shouldn't impede Keystone XL

Harry R. Weber

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The recent oil spill in Arkansas and other mishaps shouldn't influence lawmakers in Washington to stand in the way of tapping new sources of energy in the U.S. or moving forward with the Keystone XL pipeline, the American Petroleum Institute's chief economist said Tuesday.

John Felmy, who was in Houston to give a talk about U.S. energy policy, acknowledged in a telephone interview that safety and environmental lapses don't help the industry's cause. But, he said the industry is doing everything it can to be incident-free.

"No energy source is without potential problems,"

Felmy said. Washington-based API is a major oil industry trade group.

Exxon Mobil Corp. shut down its Pegasus pipeline after a rupture Friday sent crude flowing into streets in Mayflower, Ark., about 25 miles north of Little Rock. The company said Tuesday that is developing a plan to excavate and remove the damaged portion of the pipeline.

At the time of the spill, Canadian crude was flowing through the pipeline, which can carry more than 90,000 barrels of crude products per day from Illinois to Nederland in Southeast Texas.

Critics of the Keystone XL pipeline, who believe TransCanada Corp.'s \$7 billion project is an environ-

mental threat, are pointing to the Arkansas accident in urging the Obama administration to reject a permit for the Keystone XL.

The northern leg of the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline requires State Department approval because it would cross the Canadian border. But Felmy said the project is important to America's energy future.

"From an economic perspective, Keystone XL makes sense for the country, and environmentally it makes sense," he said.

Felmy said the industry needs to continue to convey its message about what it is doing to expand American energy production as well as keep workers and the environment safe.



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Lawmaker, 5 others charged in plot for mayoral ballot spot



New York State Sen. Malcolm Smith, right, leaves federal court in White Plains, N.Y., April 2, 2013. Smith and five other politicians and Republican Party leaders were arrested early Tuesday for what federal prosecutors said was a brazen series of bribery and corruption schemes, including an attempt by Smith to buy a spot on the ballot in this year's race for New York City mayor.

(Karsten Moran/The New York Times)

W. K. RASHBAUM

MARC SANTORA

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NEW YORK — A top New York state lawmaker was arrested early Tuesday for what federal prosecutors said was his central role in a brazen series of bribery and corruption schemes,

including an attempt to buy a spot on the ballot in this year's race for New York City mayor.

In outlining the charges against the lawmaker, state Sen. Malcolm A. Smith, as well as five other politicians and Republican Party leaders, U.S. Attorney

Preet Bharara said the case was but the latest evidence that corruption in New York was "pervasive."

"Every New Yorker should be disheartened and dismayed by the sad state of affairs in this great state," Bharara said.

Smith, D-Queens, who rose

to become the first black president of the state Senate, was accused of conspiring with City Councilman Daniel J. Halloran III, R-Queens, to get his name on the ballot for mayor as a Republican, which would require approval of a majority of the party's leadership in the city.

The others arrested were Joseph J. Savino, the Bronx Republican Party chairman; Vincent Tabone, vice chairman of the Queens Republican Party; and Noramie F. Jasmin, the mayor of the Rockland County village of Spring Valley, and her deputy, Joseph A. Desmaret, according to a criminal complaint. The complaint details a scheme hatched in a series of clandestine meetings in hotels, with cash passing hands in parked cars and hushed conversations in a restaurant on Valentine's Day and even

in Smith's office in Albany. The meetings, recorded by an undercover agent or a cooperating witness, were primarily among Smith, the undercover agent and the witness, and Halloran and the agent and the witness. The scheme involving the race was one of three bribery schemes charged in the case.

Bharara, at a news conference, pointed to Halloran's own words in a recorded conversation with the confidential witness as evidence of how "money greases the wheel."

"That's politics, that's politics,"

Halloran is quoted in the complaint as saying. "Not about whether or will, it's about how much, and that's our politicians in New York, they're all like that. And they get like that because of the drive that the money does for everything else." □

Dallas:

Obama to attend Bush library dedication

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House says President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama will attend the opening of former President George W. Bush's presidential library later this month in Dallas. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush will dedicate

the library at Southern Methodist University on April 25. The library opens to the public on May 1. The 23-acre (9-hectare) presidential center, which includes the library, a museum and a policy institute, has been under construction for two years. It will house more than 43,000

artifacts from Bush's presidency and more than 200 million emails. Officials from the University of Chicago and the University of Hawaii have both traveled to Dallas to meet with officials at Bush's fledgling library as they prepare bids to host Obama's presidential library. □

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Serbia, Kosovo talks break up without reaching accord

DON MELVIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Marathon EU-mediated talks between the leaders of Serbia and Kosovo have broken up without a deal, the participants said early

most difficult issues dividing the two sides — the status of Serb-dominated northern Kosovo, an EU official said. The talks broke up early Wednesday. Kosovo, a former Serbian province, declared inde-

not. Neither have many ethnic Serbs living in northern Kosovo, who reject the authority of the government in Pristina, the Kosovo capital. Serbia is required to normalize relations with its

tor that Kosovo had put forward proposals in line with its laws and constitution — proposals that he said would have integrated all citizens, including ethnic Serbs, into the life of Kosovo. But he said the proposals were met with "hesitation" on the Serbian side. He said the Serbian officials had decided to "reflect" and he still hoped an agreement could be reached next week.

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic left without speaking in English, though he said no agreement had been reached, according to journalists who spoke Serbo-Croatian.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said in a written statement that the meeting — the eighth face-to-face meeting between the two prime ministers, all under EU mediation — was the last formal meeting she would call between the parties.

"They will now both go back and consult with their colleagues in their capitals and will let me know in the next few days of their decision," the statement said. "I wish them a good journey home and every possible success in reaching a conclusion."

Any agreement would be a landmark for the region, and a major step toward peace in the Balkans, which were riven in the 1990s by bloody wars associated with the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Although Kosovo has won broad international acceptance of its independence, the ethnic Serbs living in northern Kosovo — up to 50,000 people in and around the divided city of Mitrovica — have rejected the authority of the government in Pristina, the Kosovo capital. They have created so-called parallel institutions, including hospitals and schools, all financed and supported from the Serbian capital, Belgrade. Many Serbs in Kosovo's north had said that any agreement that separated them from Serbia would not be acceptable.

"No way will we go with the Pristina authorities," said Tomislav Kostic, a resident of Mitrovica. "Only with the state of Serbia and that's it."

In the southern part of Mitrovica, ethnic Albanian Adem Mripa said the territory was part of Kosovo. He demanded reciprocity for the Albanian minority in Serbia's south. □



Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic addresses the media at the end of a meeting, at the European External Action Service(EEAS) office in Brussels, Wednesday, April 3, 2013. EU-mediated talks between the leaders of Serbia and Kosovo have broken up without a deal, the Serbian prime minister said early Wednesday. (AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

Wednesday.

The talks, which took place in Brussels, were an attempt to resolve one of the

pendence in 2008. While many countries have recognized it as an independent country, Serbia has

neighbors if it wants ultimately to join the European Union.

Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, speaking after midnight following a meeting of about 13 hours, said through a transla-

Egypt:

Campaign against TV satirist stepped up

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian authorities on Tuesday stepped up a campaign against a popular TV comedian accused of insulting the president, threatening to revoke the license of a private TV station that airs his weekly program and angrily dismissing U.S. criticism of legal proceedings against him.

The satirist, Bassem Youssef, was questioned by state prosecutors earlier this week over accusations that he insulted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi and Islam. On his Jon Stewart-inspired show, Youssef frequently satirizes everything from the president's policies to his mannerisms, as well as hardline

Islamic clerics, while highlighting contradictions in their comments.

The questioning of Youssef, along with arrest warrants issued days earlier against five anti-government activists on charges of inciting unrest, have raised warnings by opponents of Morsi of a campaign to intimidate his critics. A new case was opened Tuesday, with prosecutors looking into whether participants in a talk show on another private channel who criticized the Youssef case "endangered national security." Morsi's supporters deny any campaign, saying prosecutors are merely enforcing the law and insisting that Youssef has crossed the line with his mockery.

The Youssef case turned into a side spat with Washington after U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland on Monday spoke of a "disturbing trend" of growing restrictions on freedom of expression in Egypt, pointing to the questioning of Youssef and the arrest warrants.

"There does not seem to be an evenhanded application of justice here," Nuland added, saying the Egyptian government has been slow to investigate police brutality or attacks on anti-Morsi protesters and journalists.

The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party denounced Nuland's comments as "blatant interference" in Egypt's internal affairs. □



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Syrian, Iraqi jihadi groups said to be cooperating

**DIAA HADID
QASSIM ZAHRA
Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — The wounded Syrian government troops were returning to their country in trucks escorted by Iraqi soldiers. They'd almost reached the border, near the frontier town of Akashat, when the attackers struck.

Regional intelligence officials saw the March 4 ambush, which left 48 dead, as evidence of a growing, cross-border alliance between two powerful Islamic extremist groups — al-Qaida in Iraq and Jabhat al-Nusra or Nusra Front in Syria. Nusra Front is the most effective rebel faction fighting President Bashar Assad's regime, and the U.S. designates both Sunni jihadi groups as terrorist organizations.

Iraqi intelligence officials say the burgeoning cooperation is pumping new life into the Sunni insurgency in their country. They point to nearly 20 car bombings and suicide attacks that killed over 65 people, mostly in Baghdad, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq last month.

The alliance is also nurturing Nusra Front, which emerged as an offshoot of Iraq's al-Qaida branch in mid-2012 to battle Assad's regime as one of a patch-

work of disparate rebel groups in Syria. Nusra Front's presence on the battlefield complicates desperately needed international support for Syrian rebels because foreign backers do not want to bolster Islamic extremist groups. Two Iraqi intelligence officials said the cooperation reflected in the attack on the wounded Syrian troops prompted their government to request U.S. drone strikes against the fighters. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to talk to reporters about the subject.

A U.S. official confirmed that elements within the Iraqi government had inquired about drone strikes. But the official said the U.S. was waiting to respond until the top level of Iraqi leadership makes a formal request, which has not happened yet.

Iraq is also turning elsewhere for assistance. Ministry of Defense spokesman Staff Lt. Gen. Mohammed al-Askari said that in Iraq's last weapons deal with Russia, Baghdad requested aircraft and heavy weapons to try to seize control of the Iraqi-Syria border region where the groups are operating.

The two Iraqi intelligence officials said the jihadi groups are sharing three military

training compounds, logistics, intelligence and weapons as they grow in strength around the Syria-Iraq border, particularly in a sprawling region called al-Jazeera, which they are

ist cells," he said.

A Jordanian counterterrorism official said al-Qaida in Iraq was assisting Nusra Front "with all possible means, including weapons, fighters and training."

share a similar, fragile ethnic mix and the concern is that the conflict could cause sectarian warfare between Sunnis and Shiites to spread throughout the region. Under Iraqi Prime



This undated image posted on a militant website purports to show militants in the al-Jazeera region on the Iraqi side of the Syria-Iraq border. Middle Eastern intelligence officials said the jihadi groups are sharing military training compounds, logistics, intelligence and weapons as they grow in strength around the Syria-Iraq border, particularly in a sprawling region called al-Jazeera, which they are trying to turn into a border sanctuary they can both exploit. (AP Photo)

trying to turn into a border sanctuary they can both exploit. It could serve as a base of operations to strike either side of the border.

"We are very concerned about the security situation in Iraq," said Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Moussawi. He said Iraqi ground troops and the country's tiny air force were unable to quell the militant activity in the border zone.

"This area is a nest of terror-

Another regional security analyst cited the attack on the wounded Syrian troops in Iraq as decisive proof of cooperation.

"This is operational collaboration," the analyst said, requesting anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject. "The transfer of weapons, tactics and ideas, what they call complex suicide attacks."

Iraq and Syria's other neighbors, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Israel, all fear the spillover effects of the 2-year-old civil war. Iraq, Lebanon and Syria all

Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite-led government, already tense relations with minority Sunnis have worsened. There are also long-standing strains between Arabs and Kurds, who control their own autonomous region in Iraq's north.

In Syria, Assad is a member of the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, and his security forces are heavily stocked by fellow Alawites and Shiites. But Alawites are a minority, and the opposition fighting him is predominantly made up of majority Sunnis. □

Israeli planes strike Gaza after rocket fire

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— The Israeli military says its warplanes have struck targets in the Gaza Strip in response to rocket fire toward southern Israel.

The air strikes early Wednesday morning were the first launched by Israel since an informal cease-fire in November ended eight days of cross-border fighting,

the bloodiest between Israel and the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip in four years.

An Israeli military statement said its planes targeted "two extensive terror sites" with "accurate hits."

Palestinian officials say no one was hurt in the air strikes and no damage was reported in northern Gaza.

The air raids followed the third successful rocket attack on Israel since the November cease-fire.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the rocket fire.

The Israeli military says it holds Gaza's Islamic Hamas rulers responsible for any attack against the Jewish state. □

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Ex-ambassadors urge US, Russia to overcome rift

V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The U.S. and Russia should overcome their cold spell by focusing on their common economic and security challenges, former diplomats to Moscow and Washington said Tuesday. The ex-ambassadors, who gathered in Moscow to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic ties, said the strains have been driven by emotions and misperceptions rather than fundamental differences. They strongly urged the Kremlin and the White House to move past mutual grievances and deal with common threats.

President Barack Obama's initiative to "reset" relations with Russia has run into obstacles as the Kremlin accuses Washington of meddling in Russia's domestic affairs. Ties also have been strained by a dispute over U.S. missile defense plans and differences over the Syrian civil war. U.S.-Russian relations hit a new low in December when Russia banned Americans from adopting Russian children to retaliate against a U.S. law calling for sanctions on Russians who are identified as human-rights violators. "In many ways, people are passing legislation in both countries that is undermining some of the most im-

portant achievements of the last three-four years," said James Collins, the U.S.

ambassador to Russia from 1997 to 2001. He voiced hope that Mos-

cow and Washington would find a way to approach their differences in a "more reasonable and rational way." "We don't really see a reason, any fundamental reason, why Russia and the United States can't find common purpose and find means of cooperation to address the real issues that face both of our people," Collins said. He added that "neither Russia nor the United States really knows what to do about Syria," where a civil war has killed an estimated 70,000 people in two years. Russia has blocked attempts to pass new U.N. sanctions against Syrian President Bashar Assad, but has sought to distance itself from the Syrian ruler and signaled its resignation at the prospect of him losing power. Vladimir Lukin, the Russian ambassador to Washington in the early 1990s who is now the nation's rights ombudsman, suggested that Washington was too focused on its own interests to pay attention to the nuances in Moscow's approach to Syria. □



Former U.S. Ambassadors to Russia James Collins listens while other former Russian and U.S. ambassadors gather together at RIA Novosti in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, April 2, 2013. They called on the Kremlin and the U.S. administration to turn the page on their grievances and focus on tackling global economic and security challenges. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)



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China:

Four more rare bird flu cases, new steps taken

GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China reported Tuesday that four more people in one province have been seriously sickened by a bird flu virus new to humans, as cities along the eastern seaboard stepped up public health measures to guard against the disease, which has already caused two deaths. The health bureau of eastern Jiangsu province said three women and a retired man from different cities in the province were all critically ill with the H7N9 virus, a diagnosis confirmed by the provincial disease prevention center. The cases are the second batch to be confirmed after three in Anhui province and nearby Shanghai on Sunday. The H7N9 bird flu virus has previously not been a problem in humans. That compares to the more virulent H5N1 strain, which began ravaging poultry across Asia in 2003 and

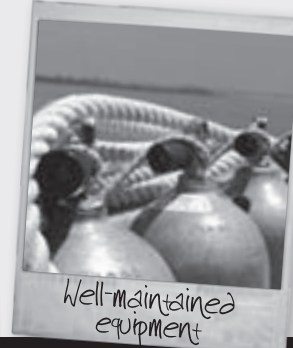
has since killed 360 people worldwide, mostly after close contact with infected birds. The reports of the new cases suggest that authorities are taking a closer look at severe flu cases after identifying the first known infections on Sunday. "When you don't look, you don't find them, but when you look, you'll find," said Dr. Ray Yip, a public health expert who heads the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in China. "A lot of people get severe respiratory conditions, pneumonias, so you usually don't test them. Now all of a sudden you get this new reported strain of flu and so people are going to submit more samples to test, (so) you're more likely to see more cases," Yip said. All of the new patients have been sick since about March 19, when they had fevers, coughs and other flu-like symptoms, the Jiangsu health bureau said in a statement. □

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UK minister asked to make good on welfare pledge

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A British government minister is being asked to put his money where his mouth is. Opponents of a raft of welfare changes that took effect this week want Work

a huge comedown — a 97 percent cut in his government minister's salary. Duncan Smith defended himself, telling a local newspaper that he'd been unemployed twice and knew what it was like "to live on the breadline."

changes are needed to save money and make welfare more fair, but the tens of thousands of signatures garnered within 24 hours of Duncan Smith's comments underscored the anger over the cuts and worry about their hu-

"What this government is trying to do is to put things right," Treasury chief George Osborne told grocery store workers at a speech Tuesday. "We're trying to make the system fair on people like you, who get up, go to work, and expect your taxes to be spent wisely. And we're trying to restore hope in those communities who have been let down by generations of politicians by getting them back into work." The most discussed welfare change is a reduction in subsidies for social housing tenants who have spare bedrooms. Opponents have dubbed the measure a "bedroom tax," but the government says the

change will save money and free up housing for families because people with too many rooms will downsize. Religious leaders, including the new archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, have called the cuts "unjust," and advocates for the disabled and anti-poverty campaigners held protest marches over the weekend. Activists argue that many people can't just move — the country already has a dire shortage of public housing. But it was the notion of Duncan Smith counting his coins at a supermarket that captured the public imagination as it illustrated how the poor really struggle to get by. □



Britain's Secretary for Work and Pensions Iain Duncan Smith on Downing Street ahead of a cabinet meeting in London. Opponents of a raft of welfare changes want Smith to make good on a claim that he could live on the 53 pounds (\$80) a week that one benefits recipient says he has left over after paying for housing and heat. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith to make good on a claim that he could live on 53 pounds (\$80) a week — the amount one welfare recipient said he has left after paying for housing and heat. Asked on national radio Monday whether he could get by on so little, Duncan Smith replied: "If I had to, I would." By late Tuesday, some 300,000 people had signed a petition urging him to prove it. That would mean living on 7.57 pounds (\$11.43) a day in London, one of the most expensive cities in the world. It would also reflect

"This is a complete stunt which distracts attention from the welfare reforms, which are much more important and which I have been working hard to get done," he was quoted as saying by the *Wanstead & Woodford Guardian*. The Conservative-led government's welfare reforms include changes in disability payments, below-inflation increases to benefits and, eventually, the replacement of a patchwork of housing, unemployment and parental benefits with one payment called the Universal Credit. Prime Minister David Cameron has argued that the

man impact. "You would have to be really tight," 28-year-old Amy Rowland said outside a London grocery store about the 53 pounds a week budget. "You would have to constantly be thinking all the time, constantly watching your step." The British government plans to cut spending by 50 billion pounds by 2015 in a bid to slash the country's ballooning budget deficit and help bolster the flat-lining economy. The welfare reforms alone will save 4.5 billion pounds by 2014-15, according to government estimates.

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Venezuela candidates ratchet up campaigns

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Interim President Nicolas Maduro exhorted supporters of Venezuela's ruling party on Tuesday to stop mourning the late President Hugo Chavez and spring into action to secure Maduro's victory in a looming presidential election. Speaking in Chavez's native state of Barinas, Maduro told a crowd of red-clad supporters that the best way to honor Chavez is to campaign vigorously for him as the April 14 vote approaches.

Although Chavez tapped Maduro to succeed him, the former vice president has repeatedly warned since Chavez's March 5 death from cancer that the ruling party cannot bank on sympathy alone to defeat opposition candidate Henrique Capriles. At the same time, Maduro has incessantly invoked Chavez's socialist legacy as president of this oil-rich country for 14 years.

"In homage and in honor of our commander there is but one destiny: Victory, the victory of the Venezuelan people against the forces of evil, against the forces of darkness."

"That victory will belong to our commander," Maduro said.

Capriles, the governor of Miranda state who lost the presidential election to Chavez in October, was campaigning in the eastern state of Monagas after leading a march late Mon-

day in Caracas to protest the government's record on crime.

Maduro interrupted his speech at Tuesday's rally so state television could broadcast footage of Chavez's last TV appear-

in Sabaneta, Chavez's hometown, in Venezuela's western plains. There, he visited with Chavez's brothers and the humble home where the late leader was born.

The acting president also

government, without offering specifics.

Both he and Capriles planned a strenuous campaign throughout the country over the next 10 days.

During a Tuesday rally in the eastern city of Maturin, Capriles criticized the government for failing to boost oil output and noted that production at many companies nationalized during Chavez's 14-year rule has plummeted, forcing Venezuela to increase imports. Capriles blamed Maduro for the government's shortcomings and urged supporters to help him win the presidency so he can start tackling the country's most pressing domestic problems.

"I cannot do it alone," he said. "We must do it together."

Capriles has also made crime a central theme of his campaign.

Venezuela had at least 10,000 murders last year. So far this year, more than 20 police officers have been killed, local news media have reported.

"People should be able to walk the streets of Venezuela at night without fear," he said.

His Democratic Unity coalition includes opposition groups from the traditional right to the left. On his Twitter account Tuesday, Capriles urged the more than 6 million Venezuelans who voted for him in October to do so again later this month. "Don't leave me alone," he pleaded. □



Supporters of opposition Presidential candidate Henrique Capriles shouts slogans prior starting a march against violence in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, April 1, 2013. Both Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's chosen successor, and opposition Gov. Henrique Capriles face the challenge of spelling out a vision for a future without Chavez, who dominated this 28 million-person country like few other leaders have during his 14 years in power. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

ance. It showed an emotional Chavez asking Venezuelans to vote for Maduro if he failed to survive his cancer treatments in Cuba.

Maduro began the day

warned Tuesday that groups he didn't name were plotting to divide the armed forces before the election. In recent weeks, Maduro has cited several threats to destabilize the

Prosecutors file murder charges in Brazil club fire

STAN LEHMAN

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Eight people have been charged in connection with the deadly nightclub fire in southern Brazil that killed 241 people earlier this year, prosecutors said Tuesday. The Jan. 27 fire roared through the crowded, windowless Kiss nightclub in the city of Santa Maria, filling the air with flames and thick, toxic smoke.

Police have said the band performing at the club lit a flare that ignited flammable soundproofing foam on the ceiling, releasing a deadly combination of cyanide, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

Prosecutor David Medina told a Tuesday news conference that the nightclub's two owners and two band members were charged with murder.

"The owners of the nightclub and the members of the band were fully aware of the danger the public faced and could have foreseen the result, but they took no action or were indifferent to the risks," Medina said. "Fireworks were used in a place that was completely inappropriate for any kind of flame. There was wood, curtain and unfortunately a lot of people." "There were insufficient and poorly lit exits," he added. Two firefighters who allegedly tried to show that the nightclub had passed safety inspection tests were charged with evidence tampering. Police have said that minimum safety and fire prevention measures were not in place. An accountant and a former partner of the nightclub were charged with perjury. Brazilian authorities have often turned a blind eye to safety and infrastructure concerns about public gathering places. The disaster, the worst fire of its kind in more than a decade, raised questions about whether safety can be ensured in such venues as the country prepares to host next year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympics. □

Uruguay's Senate approves legalizing gay marriage

PABLO FERNANDEZ

Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)

— Uruguay's Senate on Tuesday voted to legalize gay marriage by approving a single law governing matrimony for heterosexuals and homosexuals.

Senators voted 23-8 in favor of the bill, which was passed by the lower house in December. It must now return to the lower chamber of Congress with changes.

If approved, the law would

make Uruguay the second nation in Latin America and the 12th in the world to legalize gay marriage. Argentina legalized same-sex marriage in 2010.

"It goes beyond homosexuality, it's about a law where everyone shares the same rights and obligations," said Federico Grana, a lawmaker in the ruling Frente Amplio coalition and a member of the Black Sheep Collective, a gay rights group that presented the bill's first draft. The bill lets couples, gay

or straight, decide whose surname goes first when they name their children. It also clarifies rules for adoption and in-vitro fertilization, and eliminates the words "husband and woman" in marriage contracts, referring instead to the gender-neutral "contracting parties." "This is an issue of liberty, of people's choice and justice," said Sen. Rafael Michelini. "Liberty because the state should not meddle in who you should marry; of justice because if you marry abroad with

someone of the same sex and later return to Uruguay, your marriage should be recognized."

The Roman Catholic Church opposes the proposal, but the church has little political influence in secular Uruguay, which became the first Latin American country to legalize abortion last year.

President Jose Mujica has been pushing for liberal-leaning proposals in his mandate and says he plans to sign the marriage bill into law. □



South Beach Lounge hosts a fantastic Easter Weekend!



ORANJESTAD – During this long Easter Weekend, after reflecting on Good Friday, people came together at the South Beach Lounge to sit, relax and to enjoy good drinks and music. Of course the Hookah was there. It's a new trend in the lounges at the moment. There was an 'Arabesque' ambience added to the usual spice of the lounge, which helped to cap off a perfect weekend of rest, relaxation and fun! ☐



Loyal visitors honored by ATA at the Divi Phoenix Resort!



The honorees were Mr. Scott and Mrs. Mae Criado and their daughters Marcia and Mary from Norwood Mass. and Mr. John and Mrs. Kathy Bane from also from Norwood Mass. and Mr. Freddie and Mrs. Glenda Cannon as Distinguished Visitors, and Mr. Arnold and Mrs. Barbara Ackerman and Mr. Tony and Mrs. Jackie Mula from Somerset Mass. and Mr. Edward and Mrs. Helen Rossi as Ambassadors of Goodwill. All of these wonderful visitors love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Avril and Mr. Gerrit Griffith, GM at the Divi Phoenix. □



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and
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PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a big group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Aruba Divi Phoenix, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.



Goodwill Ambassadors honored at Playa Linda Resort!

PALM BEACH - Recently, Marouska Heyliger ATA representative honored Mr. Gene Wolff and Mrs. Corine Fitzpatrick with the Goodwill Ambassadors certificates in the name of the Aruba Tourism Authority. The event which

commemorates their 20th consecutive visit to the island was held at the Playa Linda Resort. They have been coming to Aruba for so long that they consider this island and hotel to be their home away from home. □



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| Daher & Co | 10% Discount Storewide 6pm - 10pm | R-Glass | FREE Ring with \$60 purchase 2pm - 10pm |
| Diamonds International | FREE Charm Bracelet All Day • No Purchase Necessary | Subway | 2 FREE Cookies with Foot Long purchase 6pm - 10pm |
| Dunkin Donuts | 2 FREE Donuts with purchase of Latte, Cappuccino or Espresso 6pm - close | The Lazy Lizard | FREE Gift with purchase 6pm - 10pm |
| Fusion | Happy Hour Dollar to Florin prices on selected items plus FREE BBQ snacks 7pm - 9pm | The Market | \$6.95 Roast 1/2 Chicken & Fries \$8.95 1/2 Slab of Ribs & Fries • All Day |
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Fast Rental Karts at Bushiri Karting Speedway



EAGLE - Many have discovered the place for the ultimate thrill while on vacation, which is Bushiri Karting Speedway, a great outdoor Go karting Track with fast rental Go karts available for anyone to rent. The place is surrounded with great ambiance and racing fans can challenge each other any day! We also have a Sports Bar called Fuel Sports Bar & Grill with good food, pool & foosball tables, big screens

and a full liquor bar for everyone to chill before, during & after their race! So now you can have fun with the whole family here at Bushiri Karting Speedway! "Race, Eat, Play & Watch the Game under one Roof"! Since Bushiri Karting Speedway opened their doors for everyone to enjoy the sport of go karting with 4stroke go karts to rent all year round and also the facility that anyone can have fun

and enjoy with the whole family. A place where children and grownups can enjoy a little speed & fun on vacation! it will definitely make your vacation an unforgettable one! Racing helmets, head socks and instruction for first time racers is provided, and our staff oversees every race to ensure individuals are driving safely and obeying the rules.

We have 270cc 9 horse power Honda engine Karts that can reach up to 50mph! Age for riding the adults karts is 13 years & up. We also have 160cc 6 horse power Honda Engine Karts for kids of 7 till 12 years old. Each race is a 10 minute race against the clock. You can receive a score sheet to take home after every race to see what your best lap time was. The score sheet can give you bragging rights to your friends back home so they can see how well you raced on a professional outdoor karting track in Aruba! We have a Special this week: get \$3 off on your second race & 8 dollars off on your third race plus get a free soda at the Bar!

Those who would like to race can call for reservations at 583-5278 or pass by at the track for an arrive-and-drive session open daily from 10am till sunset. We are located only minutes away from the Low Rise Hotels, in front of Ling & Sons supermarket. More info: www.bushirikarting.com □



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Memphis Grizzlies' Mike Conley (11) shoots in front of San Antonio Spurs' Danny Green (4) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Tenn., Monday, April 1, 2013. Conley scored 23 points in the Grizzlies 92-90 victory over the Spurs.

Associated Press

Conley's bucket lifts Grizzlies over Spurs 92-90

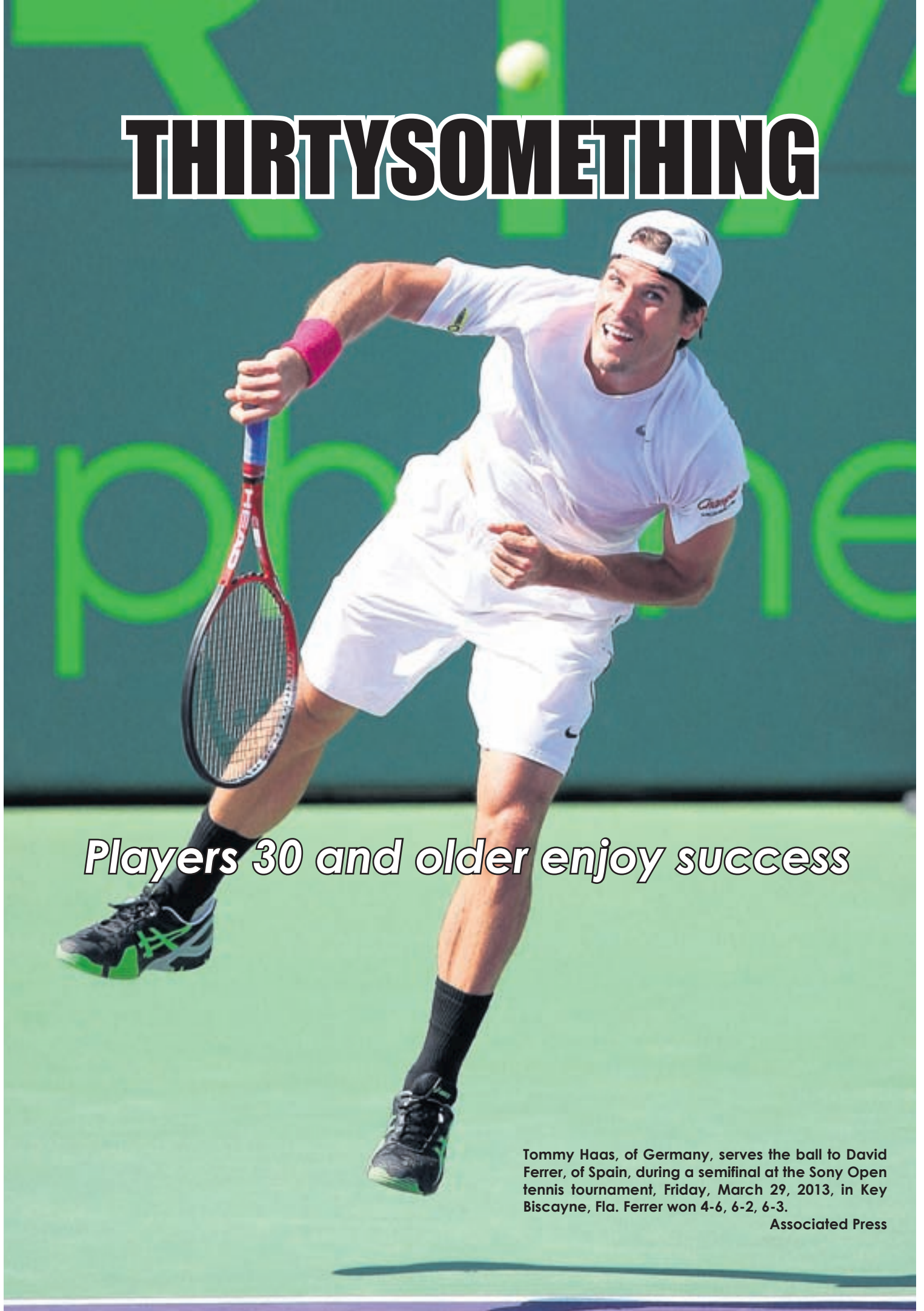
The Associated Press
MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Mike Conley drove for a layup with 0.6 seconds left as the Memphis Grizzlies rallied to beat the San Antonio Spurs 92-90 Monday for their third straight victory.

The Grizzlies matched their franchise record with their 50th win this season, and they won their 12th straight at home. They pulled out a win in a game where Conley's bucket gave them their first lead since 18-16 late in the first quarter.

Conley scored the final five points and finished with 23. Jerryd Bayless had 17 points, Marc Gasol 16, Zach Randolph 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Tayshaun Prince had 11 points. Tony Parker had 25 points for the Spurs. Parker tried to beat the buzzer with a jumper that was too late.

Continued on Page 18

THIRTYSOMETHING



Players 30 and older enjoy success

Tommy Haas, of Germany, serves the ball to David Ferrer, of Spain, during a semifinal at the Sony Open tennis tournament, Friday, March 29, 2013, in Key Biscayne, Fla. Ferrer won 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Associated Press

1st heavyweight champ's family pleas for pardon

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Relatives and hometown supporters of boxing's first black heavyweight champion are turning to YouTube to convince the President Barack Obama to posthumously pardon him of a 1913 conviction for accompanying a white woman across state lines.

Jack Johnson, nicknamed the "Galveston Giant" after his Texas hometown, defeated white boxer Jim Jeffries in a 1910 fight dubbed the "Fight of the Century" to maintain his title — a victory that sparked deadly race riots across the country.

Three years later, Johnson was convicted by an all-white jury for violating a law that made it illegal to transport white women across state lines for "immoral purposes." He was sentenced to a year in prison.

His family and other supporters say he did nothing wrong and that the centu-

ry-old conviction continues to tarnish Johnson's image. Lawmakers have asked for a pardon three times in the past decade, most recently in March, though none has been successful. The Justice Department has said its general policy is not to process posthumous pardon requests, and the White House declined to comment on the most recent congressional resolution.

So on Sunday, to mark what would have been Johnson's 135th birthday, his relatives and supporters gathered in Galveston to honor him and record a video to go straight to Obama.

Leon Phillips, president of the Galveston County Coalition for Justice, which helped spearhead the effort, told The Associated Press on Tuesday the video adds another layer of support.

"Not only is it coming from Congress, but it will be coming from the citizens of

the United States if we can just get everyone to click on that like button," he said. "President Obama's father could have been convicted of the same thing because he was married to a white woman

Johnson's great-great niece, Linda Haywood, said Johnson was "railroaded" by authorities.

"I didn't know the man was my uncle until I was 12 years old, that's how ashamed my family was of the fact

allow us to hold our heads up high because we know what a great man he was," Haywood said in the video. "I'm asking President Obama as the first black, African-American president to give my uncle a pardon," she said.

"A lot of times when he would come to his sister's house or his mother's house he had to sneak at night with his white girlfriend or his wife because of the times that they lived in."

Authorities first targeted Johnson's relationship with Lucille Cameron, who later became his wife, but she refused to cooperate.

They then turned to his former mistress, a prostitute named Belle Schreiber, to testify that Johnson had paid her train fare from Pittsburgh to Chicago, for immoral purposes.

Johnson skipped bail and fled the country following his conviction, but in 1920 he agreed to return and serve his sentence. □



Boxer Jack Johnson is shown signing contracts in this undated photo.

Associated Press

and they traveled all over the world and from state to state."

that he went to prison. A pardon would erase the shame and the stigma and

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 17

PACERS 109, CLIPPERS 106

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Roy Hibbert had 26 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out, Paul George added 23 points and 10 assists, and Indiana barely completed a sweep of its four-game road trip by beating Los Angeles in a battle of division leaders.

Hibbert made all eight of his shots in the first half and finished 11 for 14 from the field to help his team extend its winning streak to five and increase its Central Division lead to 6 1/2 games over idle Chicago.

All five Pacers starters scored in double figures, with David West getting 16 and backcourt mates Lance Stephenson and George Hill chipping in with 13 apiece.

Jamal Crawford scored 25 points off the bench for the Pacific Division-leading Clippers, whose magic number to clinch the first di-



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Ricky Rubio (9), of Spain, maneuvers around Boston Celtics guard Avery Bradley (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, April 1, 2013, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

vision title in the franchise's 43-year history remained at two. They failed on their third attempt at their 50th victory, which would break the franchise record set by the 1974-75 Buffalo Braves. Blake Griffin had 17 points.

JAZZ 112, TRAIL BLAZERS 102

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Al Jefferson scored 24 points,

Mo Williams hit six 3-pointers and Utah beat Portland to extend its winning streak to a season-best five games.

The win was Utah's second in four days over the Blazers (33-41), losers of five straight.

Wesley Matthews scored 23 for Portland, still without leading scorer LaMar-

cus Aldridge because of a sprained ankle.

Rookie standout Damian Lillard added 17 points, including three 3-pointers to break the NBA's single-season rookie record (166) for 3s. Utah moved a half-game ahead of the idle Los Angeles Lakers for the eighth Western Conference playoff spot, and two games ahead of Dallas.

ROCKETS 111, MAGIC 103

HOUSTON (AP) — Omer Asik matched his career high with 22 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, and Houston beat Orlando without James Harden and Chandler Parsons.

Jeremy Lin had 19 points and 11 assists, and Francisco Garcia had 14 points, five assists and three blocks for the Rockets, who hardly missed their top two scorers until Orlando made a late run. Harden sat out for the second straight game with a sore right foot and Parsons missed the game with an illness.

Rookie Maurice Harkless scored a career-high 28 points and Beno Udrih had

17 points and 10 assists for the Magic.

The Rockets won for the eighth time in 10 home games and inched closer to their first playoff berth since the 2008-09 season. Houston holds the No. 7 seed in the Western Conference.

TIMBERWOLVES 110, CELTICS 100

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Nikola Pekovic bruised and battered the overmatched Boston front line for 29 points to lead Minnesota. Andrei Kirilenko had 17 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and Dante Cunningham scored 19 points off the bench for the Wolves, who delivered coach Rick Adelman his 998th career victory.

Avery Bradley scored 19 points for Boston, which was playing without Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett. The Celtics, who started the day 2 1/2 games ahead of eight-seeded Milwaukee in the Eastern Conference playoff race, have lost seven of their last nine games. □

NL Capsules

Iannetta's hit in 13th sends Angels over Reds 3-1

The Associated Press
CINCINNATI (AP) — Chris Iannetta hit a solo homer early in the game and a bases-loaded single in the 13th inning, powering the Los Angeles Angels past the Cincinnati Reds in the majors' first interleague season opener.

The Angels loaded the bases with two outs in the 13th off J.J. Hoover, who walked two and hit Hank Conger, the Angels' final position player. Iannetta worked the count full, fouled off a pair of pitches, then singled to left. Ernesto Frieri, the Angels' seventh pitcher, finished off the Reds' longest opening game since 1975, when they beat the Dodgers 2-1 in 14 innings.

NATIONALS 2, MARLINS 0
WASHINGTON (AP) — Bryce Harper homered in his first two at-bats and Stephen Strasburg retired 19 batters in a row at one stretch as the defending NL East champion Washington Nationals opened the season with a 2-0 victory over the Miami Marlins on Monday. For Strasburg, this marked the start of what should be his first full season in the majors, with zero pitch or inning limits. The All-Star ace was dominant against a trade-depleted Marlins lineup that features Giancarlo Stanton and little else. The right-hander went seven innings, matching his career high, and allowed three hits.

Reigning NL Rookie of the Year Harper, a 20-year-old outfielder, hit solo shots over the out-of-town scoreboard in right-center field off Ricky Nolasco in the first and fourth innings.

New closer Rafael Soriano got the save.

DODGERS 4, GIANTS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clayton Kershaw launched his first career home run to break a scoreless tie in the eighth inning, then finished off a four-hitter that led the

Los Angeles Dodgers past the San Francisco Giants. Kershaw became the first pitcher to throw a shutout and hit a home run in an opener since Bob Lemon for Cleveland in 1953, STATS said.

Kershaw struck out seven, walked none and retired World Series MVP Pablo Sandoval on a grounder to end it.

Matt Cain made his first career opening day start for the Giants in the loss. He allowed four hits in six scoreless innings, struck out eight and walked one.

METS 11, PADRES 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Jonathon Niese stepped nicely into his new role as No. 1 starter for the Mets, and Collin Cowgill capped a successful New York debut with a grand slam in a rout of the San Diego Padres. Handed the opening day assignment in place of injured Johan Santana, Niese enjoyed a big afternoon with both his arm and bat. He breezed into the seventh inning against a Padres lineup missing slugger Chase Headley (broken thumb) and catcher Yasmani Grandal, suspended for the first 50 games after testing positive for testosterone.

Marlon Byrd had a pair of RBI singles and fellow Mets newcomer John Buck was in the middle of three rallies as New York improved baseball's best opening day record to 34-18 despite dropping its first eight openers.

CUBS 3, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jeff Samardzija struck out nine in eight nearly flawless innings and the Chicago Cubs held on for a victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The right-hander allowed just two hits and walked one as the Chicago won on opening day for the first time since 2009. □



Los Angeles Angels' Chris Iannetta drives in two runs with a single off Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher J.J. Hoover in the 13th inning of an opening day baseball game, Monday, April 1, 2013, in Cincinnati. Los Angeles won 3-1.

Associated Press

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Tennis trend: Players 30 and older enjoy success

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida (AP)

— Andy Murray watches all of the recent success by players in their 30s and likes what he sees.

Men 30 and older made a big splash at the Sony Open last week, including semifinalist Tommy Haas, at 34 the oldest player in the ATP Tour's top 50, and runner-up David Ferrer, who lost a thrilling final to Murray. Serena Williams, 31, became the oldest women's champion.

It's a trend that might continue into the clay-court season that began on Monday, and beyond.

"It has been quite interesting," said Murray, 25. "Guys are reaching their peak later in their careers. The average age at the top 100 has increased by a few years since I first came on the tour."

The Sony Open had 22 thirtysomething men in the draw, compared with 12 a decade ago. Twenty years ago, there were only four men 30 or older.

Ferrer, who turns 31 on Tuesday, and 31-year-old Jurgen Melzer staged the first all-thirtysomething men's quarterfinal at Key Biscayne since 2003. Add Haas, and for only the third time since 1990, three men 30 or older reached the quarterfinals of a Masters event.

"I think about it — Haas at 34," Sam Querrey said. "Hey, I'm 25. I really hope that I can go for nine good more years. It gives me more motivation and more hope that I can have a nice, long career like those guys."

Bjorn Borg retired at 25. Boris Becker was done playing full-time at 28. Patrick Rafter quit at 28, and Marat Safin and Gustavo Kuerten walked away at 29. Andy Roddick retired last year shortly after turning 30.

But the style of play has changed, with trips to the net much more infrequent than in the past. Top players can win by hugging the baseline.

"A lot of the guys that used to play serve and volley had a lot of problems

with their backs and their knees and hips, and finished when they were 28 or 29 years old," Murray said. "And now guys are probably training better. There are better training methods, and people probably understand how to recover from matches better and are learning new things all the time about how the body works."

Many former No. 1 women retired before 30 as well, including Monica Seles, Justine Henin, Martina Hingis, Kim Clijsters and Jennifer Capriati.

The No. 1-ranked Williams joked last week about buying a Rolls-Royce in response to a mid-life crisis when she turned 30. But she might be more dominant than ever, and her conditioning seems at a peak for the challenges of clay.

Two other thirtysomethings are ranked in the women's top 15 — Li Na and Roberta Vinci, a late-bloomer ranked a career-high No.



David Ferrer, of Spain, celebrates his 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 win against Tommy Haas, of Germany, during a semifinal match at the Sony Open tennis tournament, in Key Biscayne, Fla., Friday, March 29, 2013.

Associated Press



Serena Williams holds the trophy after defeating Maria Sharapova, of Russia, in the final of the Sony Open tennis tournament, Saturday, March 30, 2013, in Key Biscayne, Fla. Williams won 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Associated Press

13 at age 30.

As tennis takes on a more mature look, teen sensations are becoming less common. On the men's side, Becker was a two-time Wimbledon champion before he turned 20. Mats Wilander won his first major title at 17, Borg at 18, Pete Sampras at 19.

But the most recent teenage men's Grand Slam champion was a 19-year-old Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open.

Again, Querrey sees changes in the style of play

as a factor.

"Compared to 20 years ago, I think guys can hit the ball bigger now," he said.

"A man can just overpower and blow away an 18-year-old boy. I think 20 years ago with the rackets and the way people played, guys couldn't just blow through an 18- or 19-year-old. Guys weren't big power guys. You couldn't hit the ball through players as much, so it allowed some of the younger players to feel their way into the game."

"Nowadays I feel that's tougher to do. There is a bigger difference between the way a bigger, stronger man plays compared to an 18- or 19-year-old."

Haas, who turns 35 on Wednesday, is a muscular 6-foot-2 and 190 pounds (1.88 meters and 86 kilograms). And he's No. 14 this week, the highest he has been ranked in five years.

The German said he and other thirtysomethings on the tour know how to take care of their bodies and are properly conditioned.

"I think what it comes down to is the older you get, you would assume you get wiser," he said. "Now with nutrition and everything you can do, the right training, the trainers that you have, it just helps you mentally."

"You just know what works for you best. You might do a lot of lifting; you might do a lot of cardiovascular workout. You try to figure out what helps you the best if you want to keep on riding it for as long as you can." □

Pele watched by military dictatorship in Brazil

SAO PAULO (AP) — Documents released by Brazilian authorities show that military officials kept track of Pele during the country's dictatorship era.

The files unveiled by the Sao Paulo state government on Monday show officials investigated Pele in the 1970s, keeping record of his activi-

ties and probing incidents involving the football star, including alleged attacks to his home in the coastal city of Santos.

The military dictatorship ruled Brazil from 1964-85, with officials constantly trying to identify possible opponents to the regime and vehemently acting to reprimand radical leftists.

Pele had already been linked to military dictatorship investigations after he allegedly received a manifest requesting his help to try and influence the release of political prisoners.

The documents on Pele were among several files on well-known Brazilians released online by the state government. □





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Indians' Kazmir hurts abdominal, could miss start

TORONTO (AP) — Cleveland pitcher Scott Kazmir has a sore abdominal muscle and might miss his first scheduled start for the Indians.

Kazmir felt sore after playing catch on flat ground during a team workout Monday. The Indians open the season Tuesday night at Toronto.

Manager Terry Francona said Kazmir will be reevaluated after he tries to throw a bullpen on Wednesday. The 29-year-old lefty was set to start Saturday at Tampa Bay.

Kazmir hasn't pitched in the major leagues in almost two years. A two-time All-Star with Tampa Bay, he was released by the An-

gels in 2011 and pitched last season in independent ball. The Indians selected Kazmir for the 25-man roster and optioned left-hander Nick Hagadone to Triple-A Columbus. Cleveland also outrighted lefty David Huff to Columbus and had outfielder Ezequiel Carrera claimed off waivers by Philadelphia. □



Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Scott Kazmir throws against the Seattle Mariners during the first inning in an exhibition spring training baseball game on Saturday, March 23, 2013, in Peoria, Ariz.

Associated Press

Verlander, Tigers open with cool win over Twins

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Justin Verlander won on opening day for the first time in six attempts, pitching five shutout innings at frosty Target Field to send the defending American League champion Detroit Tigers past the Minnesota Twins 4-2 on Monday.

Verlander (1-0) had been 0-1 in his previous five openers. Phil Coke got the last two outs for the first save by the Tigers' closer committee. Prince Fielder, wearing a black ski covering on his head, had two hits and an RBI to help spoil the first Twins start by Vance Worley (0-1).

RED SOX 8, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Jon Lester and the Boston Red Sox got off to a quick start after a dreadful 2012 season, giving new manager John Farrell an opening day win over the depleted New York Yankees.

Newcomer Shane Victorino led a revamped Red Sox lineup with three RBIs and rookie Jackie Bradley Jr. walked three times and scored twice in his big league debut. Boston's big day against CC Sabathia



Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander pitches in the first inning of the Twins opening day baseball game Monday, April 1, 2013 in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

(0-1) came a year after it lost its first three games under Bobby Valentine and went on to a 69-93 finish. Facing a Yankees lineup minus injured Derek Jeter for the first time since 2001

and just three starters from opening day a year ago, Lester (1-0) gave up five hits and two runs in five sharp innings against the defending AL East champions. WHITE SOX 1, ROYALS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Chris Sale outpitched James Shields, Tyler Flowers homered and the Chicago White Sox beat Kansas City in their season opener. Sale (1-0) showed the form

that made him a 17-game winner and an All-Star in his first season as a starter.

On a chilly day when the gametime temperature was 44, he allowed seven hits and struck out seven in 7 2-3 innings. Addison Reed worked the

ninth for the save. Shields (0-1) was a tough-luck loser in his first start since the Royals acquired him from Tampa Bay in the off-season. Flowers homered leading off the fifth.

MARINERS 2, ATHLETICS 0
OAKLAND, California (AP) — Felix Hernandez struck out eight on opening day in his first start since signing a \$175 million, seven-year contract in February, and the Mariners beat the reigning AL West champion Oakland Athletics.

King Felix surrendered one walk while pitching 7 2-3 scoreless innings. He didn't allow a hit until John Jaso doubled to left-center with one out in the fourth, only a couple of hours after the pitcher gifted his former backstop with a Rolex watch for catching his perfect game in August against the Rays. □

Blood, Salt and Tears

President John F. Kennedy said, "All of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea -- whether it is to sail or to watch it -- we are going back from whence we came." Salt is the spark plug of our body. Although eating an excess of salt is associated with high blood pressure, not having enough salt can cause hypo-tension or low blood pressure which results in dizziness or loss of consciousness. Salt is essential for the prevention of muscle cramps, maintaining sexuality, preventing varicose veins and the salt in our bones is help them stay firm. In studies on salt and blood pressure processed table salt was used and researchers did not adjust for things like, high alcohol consumption, high body mass index, low potassium excretion, and dehydration. Unrefined sea salt is a healthier choice than common table salt. Natural sea salt contains minerals that the body needs. High blood pressure rarely has symptoms. Blood pressure values can be pushed higher by pain, medications or anxiety, including the stress of visiting the doctor. Have your pressure

taken while lying down in a stress-free environment. Blood pressure (BP) comes in two numbers. The high number is the pressure of the heart pumping your blood. The low number is the pressure your blood pushes against on the walls of your arteries when your heart is "resting." Normal blood pressure should range between 100/70 to 120/80. If your BP is higher, you have a greater risk of developing problems with your heart and or arteries.

"Standard" treatment for blood pressure problems is pharmaceuticals. Studies have shown that taking blood pressure lowering drugs can cause side effects, like impotence and an increased risk for heart disease, just what you are trying to avoid. The World Health Organization has listed hypertension, or high blood pressure, as one of the conditions treated effectively by acupuncture. In many cases high blood pressure can be controlled through changes in diet and lifestyle. Lifestyle factors include caffeine or alcohol intake, stress, lack of exercise, smoking and body weight. Dietary problems include; high sugar, high saturated fat and insufficient magnesium, vitamin C and healthy fats. Some people do not excrete sodium. Diuretics can make the problem worse by also lowering potassium. Natural sea

salt, not table salt, will not harm you if your intake of potassium and water is balanced. Fresh fruit is a good source of potassium. Drinking mineral water is critical for nearly every bodily function. Dietary supplements can also provide support, but check your personal needs with a clinical nutritionist. If this is not enough, check for toxins with a hair analysis test contributing to these and other health problems.

Get The Point! Blood pressure problems are more than an excess of salt. Identifying imbalances and counseling on diet and lifestyle can go a long way. In our home by the beautiful Caribbean Sea, there are no chemicals in our kitchen. We drink plenty of mineral water, use only natural sea salt, pressure lowering, fresh garlic, good omega oils like virgin olive oil, and gladly cry salty tears while cutting our onions to flavor our food. The facts on salt are another of the many dietary misconceptions you have heard. Call so we can help you put the spark back in your plugs.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Lat-



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

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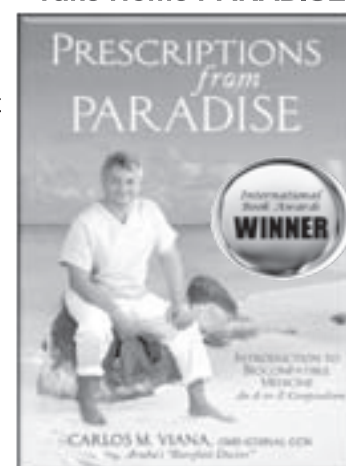
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As Facebook matures, is it losing its edge?

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Has Facebook become less fun?

That's something many users — especially those in their teens and early 20s — are asking themselves as they wade through endless posts, photos "liked" by people they barely know and spur-of-the moment friend requests. Has it all become too much of a chore? Are the important life events of your closest loved ones drowning in a sea of banana slicer jokes? "When I first got Facebook I literally thought it was the coolest thing to have. If you had a Facebook you kind of fit in better, because other people had one," says Rachel Fernandez, 18, who first signed on to the site four or five years ago.

And now? "Facebook got kind of boring," she says. Chatter about Facebook's demise never seems to die down, whether it's talk of "Facebook fatigue," or grouching about how the social network lost its cool once grandma joined. The Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project recently found that some 61 percent of Facebook users had taken a hiatus from the site for reasons that range from "too much gossip and drama" to "boredom." Some respondents said there simply isn't enough time in their day for Facebook.

If Facebook Inc.'s users leave, or even check in less frequently, its revenue growth would suffer. The company, which depends on targeted advertising for most of the money it makes, booked revenue of \$5.1 billion in 2012, up from \$3.7 billion a year earlier. But so far, for every person who has left permanently, several new people have joined up. Facebook has more than 1 billion users around the world. Of these, 618 million sign in every day.

Indeed, Fernandez hasn't abandoned Facebook. Though the Traverse City, Michigan, high school senior doesn't look at her

News Feed, the constant cascade of posts, photos and viral videos from her nearly 1,800 friends, she still uses Facebook's messaging feature to reach out to people she knows, such as a German foreign exchange student she met two years ago.

Fernandez uses Facebook in the same way that people use email or the telephone. But she prefers using Facebook to communicate because everyone she knows is there. That's a sign that Facebook's biggest asset may also be its biggest challenge.

"We have never seen a social space that actually works for everybody," says danah boyd, who studies youth culture, the Internet and social media as a senior researcher at Microsoft Research. "People don't want to hang out with everybody they have ever met."

Might Facebook go the way of email? Those who came of age in the "You've got mail" era can reminisce fondly about arriving home from school and checking their AOL accounts to see if anyone sent them an electronic message. Boyd, who is 35 (and legally spells her name with no capitalization), recalls being a teenager and "thinking email is the best thing ever."

Few people share that sentiment these days. Ian Bogost, professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, recently listed email alongside "Blood, frogs, lice, flies, pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn" in a Facebook post.

"I was just going through my daily email routine, reflecting on the fact that it feels like battling down a wall of locusts," Bogost says. Although email has gone from after-school treat to a dull routine in the space of 20 years, no one is ready to ring its death knell just yet. And similarly, Facebook's lost luster doesn't necessarily foreshadow its obsolescence.

"I don't see teenagers leaving in droves," boyd says. "I just don't see it be-



This photo taken Monday March 25, 2013 of Daniel Singer, 13 works at his computer at his home in Los Angeles. Singer, thinks the average teenager wants to see new stuff. Twitter, comes to mind, along with Instagram and Pheed, a photo-text-video-audio sharing app launched last fall. For Singer, Facebook is part of a daily routine. "Kind of like brushing your teeth," he says.

Associated Press

ing their site of passion."

In early March, Facebook unveiled a big redesign to address some of its users' most pressing gripes. The retooling, which is already available to some people, is intended to get rid of the clutter that's been a complaint among Facebook users for some time.

Facebook surveys its users regularly about their thoughts on the site. Jane Leibrock, whose title at Facebook is user experience researcher, says it was about a year ago that she noticed people were complaining about "clutter" in their feeds. Leibrock asked them what they meant. It turns out that the different types of content flowing through people's News Feeds — links, ads, photos, status updates, things people "liked" or commented on — were "making it difficult to focus on any one thing," she says. "It might have even been discouraging them from finding new content."

The new design seeks to address the issue. There is a distinct feed for "all friends," another for different groups of friends, one just for photos, and one for pages that users follow. As a result, says Chris Struhar, the lead engineer on the

new design, the new feeds give people a way to see everything that's going on. "The amount of stories you have available to see has continued to increase," Struhar says. "What we try to do now is give you more control over what stories

you see in your feed."

With that kind of control, the company hopes people will spend more time on the site and share more information about themselves so companies can target them better with advertisements. □

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May silver leads precious metals to another drop

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

Precious metals prices are falling as demand for alternative investments decreases.

Silver prices fell the most, declining for a fifth straight day.

May silver fell 69.60 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$27.248 an ounce Tuesday.

The price of the metal has fallen more than 7 percent since the start of the year as U.S. stocks have rallied, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index 10.1 percent higher this year. Gold, palladium and platinum also fell Tuesday. Only copper bucked the trend and edged higher.

"We are seeing a notable decoupling between commodities and stocks," said Edward Meir an analyst at INTL FCStone. "People are all piling into stocks."

Gold for June fell \$24.90, or 1.6 percent, to \$1,575.90. Platinum for July fell \$24.60, or 1.5 percent, to \$1,571.80. Palladium for June fell \$14.55, or 1.9 percent, to \$769.40.

In other commodities trading, corn fell for a third day. Corn prices have slumped 13 percent in the three trading days since a U.S. Department of Agriculture report showed that corn inventories were higher than analysts had forecast. The government agency also said the same day that farmers intended to plant the most corn since 1936.

"It was a big shock to the market and the market reacted accordingly," said Dan Cekander, a director of grain market analysis at Newedge USA.

In other agricultural futures trading, wheat rose and soybeans edged higher.

Wheat for May delivery fell 6.75 cents to \$6.7075. Soybeans for the same month rose 3.25 cents to \$13.94.

The price of oil rose slightly Tuesday, as traders waited for the latest data on U.S. supplies. Benchmark oil for May delivery gained 12 cents for finish at \$97.19 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. □

No let up for auto sales in March; pickups lead

DEE-ANN DURBIN
TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — America is getting back to work, and it needs pickup trucks. Strong truck demand in

ness is the best it's been in five years," said Tim Parker, owner of a Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram dealer in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Parker recently joined a Chrysler program that helps him

on a high note.

But this year had additional incentives for buyers. Fuel prices ended the month lower than a year ago. The number of Americans seeking unemployment

were commonplace as Japanese automakers came roaring back after the 2011 earthquake in Japan. Auto companies are settling in for a period of slower but sustained growth.

Cars with the latest designs are enticing buyers. The redesigned Nissan Altima sedan outsold the Toyota Camry, the perennial mid-size king, in March by 100 vehicles. That hadn't happened since May 2011, according to Ward's Auto-InfoBank. The redesigned Honda Accord, which went on sale at the end of last year, also came close to outselling the Camry, which was last redesigned in 2011.

Small car sales have slowed, in part because gas prices are relatively low. Sales of Toyota's Prius hybrid dropped 23 percent in March.

But pickup trucks made up for that. GM, Ford and Chrysler sold a total of 154,722 full-size pickups, up 14 percent from a year ago. It's the third straight month that pickup sales have outpaced overall industry sales.

Pickup truck sales should keep increasing through this year and at least into early next year, said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting for LMC Automotive, a Detroit-area forecasting firm. □



A Ford emblem is attached to the wheel of a sedan at a Ford dealership in, Norwood, Mass. March is turning out to be the best month for auto sales in at least six years. Major automakers including Ford, Chrysler, Toyota, General Motors and Nissan all reported increases, with some reporting their best month since the start of the Great Recession in December of 2007.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

March drove U.S. auto sales to their highest monthly total since August 2007, as everyone from oil and gas producers to local home builders raced to replace the aging trucks they held onto during the recession. Overall auto sales rose 3.4 percent to 1.45 million, according to Autodata Corp. "I think day-to-day busi-

ness is the best it's been in five years," said Tim Parker, owner of a Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram dealer in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Parker recently joined a Chrysler program that helps him

on a high note. But this year had additional incentives for buyers. Fuel prices ended the month lower than a year ago. The number of Americans seeking unemployment

were commonplace as Japanese automakers came roaring back after the 2011 earthquake in Japan. Auto companies are settling in for a period of slower but sustained growth.

Goldman takes Apple off 'preferred' list

PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Goldman Sachs dropped Apple off its list of most highly recommended stocks Tuesday as it joined other analysts in reducing expectations for a company that hasn't had a revolutionary new product since the iPad in 2010.

Goldman analyst Bill Shope said the iPhone 5, introduced last fall, hasn't sold as well as he expected. He said the company now needs some real hits among the products it rolls

out during the second half of the year in order to boost the stock price.

Apple's stock fell \$1.01, or 0.2 percent, to \$427.90 in afternoon trading Tuesday, while the Nasdaq was up 0.2 percent. Apple's stock price is close to its one-year low of \$419, hit a month ago. It's well off its all-time peak of \$705.07, reached in September on the day the iPhone 5 went on sale. Besides taking the company off Goldman's "Americas Conviction List," which it had been on since December 2010, Shope low-

ered Apple's price target on the shares to \$575, from \$660. But he kept a "Buy" rating for the company.

After a heady decade, Apple's sales growth is slowing down. In recent years, Apple has tinkered with existing products rather than come out with groundbreaking new ones. Even so, the company warned this fall that a wave of improvements meant higher production costs, at least initially. For the quarter that just ended, analysts polled by FactSet expect an 18 percent decrease in earn-

ings compared with the previous year. It would be the first time in many years that Apple sees an earnings decline of that magnitude.

Compared with competitors such as Samsung Electronics Co., Apple has appeared inflexible, refusing to vary the size and cost of the iPhone.

Shope, though, joins other analysts in saying he expects a cheaper iPhone debuting around the third quarter, which could help drive growth in developing countries. □

Health insurers lead stocks higher on Wall Street

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks closed at a record highs Tuesday after reports on auto sales and factory orders provided the latest evidence that the U.S. economy is strengthening. Traders plowed money back into European stocks as the financial situation in Cyprus appeared to stabilize.

Health insurers powered the gains a day after the government released revised reimbursement rates for Medicare Advantage plans. The new numbers suggest that funding cuts will be less severe than analysts and companies had feared.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 89.16 points, or 0.6 percent, at 14,662.01. It had risen as high as 14,684 in the late morning.

The Dow broke through an all-time record on March 5. It has risen steadily since then, routinely setting new trading highs.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 8.08 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,570.25. That eclipsed the index's record closing high of 1,569.19 set Thursday. It rose to within two points of its intraday trading high of 1,576 reached on Oct. 11, 2007.

European markets closed sharply higher on the first trading day after a tense, four-day holiday weekend. Paris' CAC-40 rose 2 percent, London's FTSE 100 1.2 percent and Frankfurt's DAX 1.9 percent.

The gains in Europe markets boosted confidence among U.S. investors. While European markets were closed for four days for the Easter holiday, many traders feared that Cyprus' precarious financial situation would worsen. That concern also weighed on U.S. markets Monday, said Peter Tchir, who runs the hedge fund TF Market Advisors.

But no bad news materialized. Instead, Cyprus' international lenders agreed to extend until 2018 its deadline for meeting key budget targets. European mar-

kets opened higher and rose strongly after U.S. trading began Tuesday. The gains fed a virtuous cycle that sent stocks higher on both sides of the Atlantic, Tchir said.

"Everyone was waiting to see if Europe had problems from Cyprus," he said. "Instead, we got the all-clear signal."

The trading day began with solid March sales reports from U.S. automakers. Chrysler said it sold more cars and trucks than in any month since the Great Recession began, an increase of 5 percent. Sales for General Motors and Ford rose 6 percent.

Orders to U.S. factories rose 3 percent in February, the best gain in five months, the government said after trading began. The increase was driven by a surge in demand for commercial aircraft, an especially volatile category.

Health care stocks rose the most of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index, adding 1.4 percent. The sector is up 17.1 percent this year.

Traders were relieved about the insurers' pros-

pects after Monday's news about Medicare Advantage rates. Preliminary data released in February had raised fears that companies offering the plans would be forced to cut benefits, increase customers' premiums or abandon



Trader Anthony Riccio, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks closed at a record highs Tuesday after reports on auto sales and factory orders provided the latest evidence that the U.S. economy is strengthening.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

some markets. This week's data suggest that may not be necessary.

UnitedHealth was the biggest gainer in the Dow. DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc. led the S&P 500 higher.

Also among the S&P 500's top 15 gainers were Humana Inc., Aetna Inc. and Cigna Corp.

UnitedHealth rose \$2.77, or 4.7 percent, to \$61.74. DaVita rose \$7.29, or 6.1 percent, to \$127.20. Humana gained \$4.09, or 5.5 per-

cent, to \$79.11. Aetna rose \$1.92, or 3.7 percent, to \$54.30. Cigna added \$1.84, or 2.9 percent, to \$64.75.

Airline stocks fell sharply after Delta Air Lines Inc. said a key measure of revenue was hurt last month by government spending cuts, a technical glitch and attempts to get passengers to pay more.

Delta fell \$1.31, or 8.1 percent, to \$14.94. United Continental Holdings Inc. lost \$1.59, or 5.1 percent, to \$29.38. US Airways Group Inc. fell 93 cents, or 5.6 percent, to \$15.74. JetBlue Airways Corp. dropped 40 cents, or 5.9 percent, to \$6.34.

The industry dragged the Dow Jones transportation average down 1.2 percent. The index fell even more on Monday, 1.5 percent, after U.S. manufacturing slowed more than economists forecast in March. The index, which includes airlines like Delta, United and freight companies FedEx and UPS, has gained 14.7 percent this year.

US factory orders surge up 3% in February



PeePs move through the manufacturing process, at the Just Born factory in Bethlehem, Pa. The Commerce Department said Tuesday, April 2, 2013 that factory orders increased 3 percent in February. That's up from a 1 percent decline in January and the biggest gain in five months.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories rose sharply in February from January on a surge in volatile demand for commercial aircraft. The gain offset

a drop in key orders that signal business investment. The Commerce Department said Tuesday that factory orders increased 3 percent in February. That's up from a 1 percent decline in January and the

biggest gain in five months. The increase was due mostly to a jump in orders for commercial aircraft. Those orders rose 95.1 percent. Orders for motor vehicles and parts also increased 1.4 percent.

Orders for all durable goods, which are products expected to last at least three years, jumped 5.6 percent. Orders for nondurable goods, such as processed food and clothing, rose 0.8 percent.

Despite the gains, the report showed that a key measure of business investment plans fell. That could mean that some companies were worried in February about steep federal spending cuts that started on March 1.

Core capital goods, which include machinery and equipment orders, fell 3.2 percent. Demand for construction machinery, tur-

bines and generators all fell sharply. Orders for computers and electronic products rose slightly.

Economists closely watch these orders because they signal business investment plans.

Still, the decline followed a 6.7 percent surge in January, the largest in nearly three years. Analysts said that when averaging the two months, business investment orders showed a solid increase for the January-March quarter. Many expect the gains to resume this spring, helped by a stronger job market that has kept consumers spending.

Consumers stepped up spending in February after their income jumped. The gain occurred even after Social Security taxes increased in January, reducing take-home pay for most Americans. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



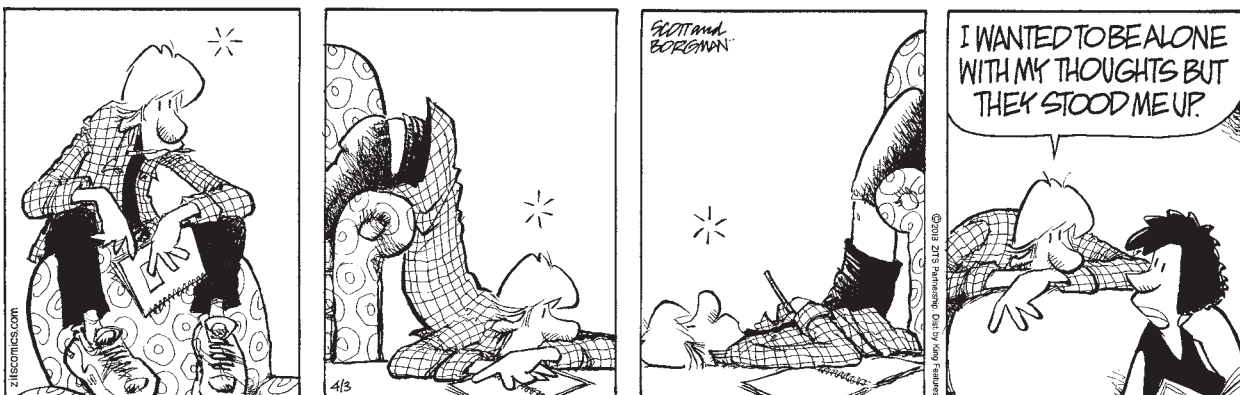
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

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Difficulty Level ★★★

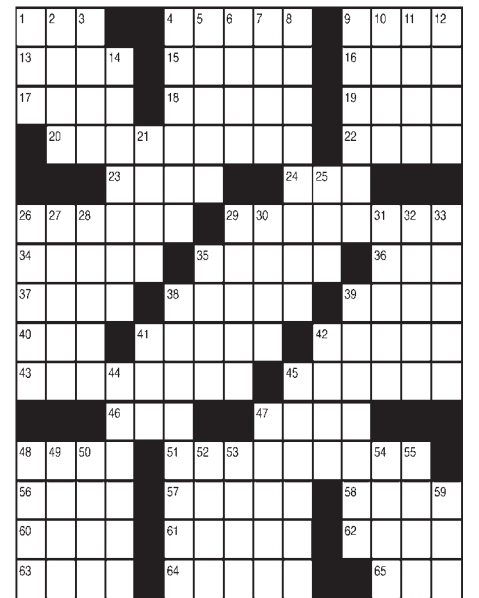
4/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

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| 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
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| 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
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ACROSS

- 1 Lively dance
4 Bookcase part
9 Lug
13 Author Leon ___
15 ___ vaccine;
Salk's invention
16 Thus
17 No longer here
18 Measuring stick
19 Accessory for
the waist
20 Daffodil
22 Charles and
Romano
23 Leaf of a book
24 Ginger ___; soft
drink
26 Is fussy about
one's looks
29 Easy task
34 Antlers
35 Santa's helpers
36 Prohibit
37 Border on
38 Very smart
person
39 Company's
symbol
40 Use a straw
41 ___ as a bat
42 Metal fastener
43 Going into
45 Indy 500
entrants
46 Helium or
hydrogen
47 Seep
48 News, for short
51 Abbreviated
56 African nation
57 Henry or Peter
58 Paul, before his
conversion
60 Bakery
purchases
61 Stomach woe
62 Catch sight of
63 Bench board
64 Suspicious
65 Palmer's peg
- DOWN
1 Pitcher
2 Wrought ___;
gate material
3 Actress
Lollobrigida



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/3/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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|------------|------------|-------|
| MUCH | CREEP | ABLE |
| AREA | RADAR | BRAG |
| UGLY | ENGROSSING | |
| LEE | SAKE | HOMES |
| | BALKS | TAR |
| NORWAY | NUMBER | |
| ALARM | PLEBE | MAD |
| PITY | GRETA | MARE |
| EVE | FLOGS | LINEN |
| EDDIED | OUTCRY | |
| ONE | TUTTI | |
| ARENA | LATE | POT |
| PARALEGALS | PAPA | |
| EVIL | LEVEE | ITEM |
| SEND | FEAST | GENE |

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- 39 Driver's ID
41 Upper body
undergarment
42 Level a building
44 Braggart
45 ___ Club;
service group
47 Command
48 Little rascals
- 49 Hammer's
target
50 Biting insect
52 Abyss
53 A single time
54 Vane direction
55 Hoodwink
59 Caustic soap
ingredient

Don't Mess with Texas: State revamps popular campaign against litter

Asher Price

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

AUSTIN, Texas -- Don't Mess with Texas, the famed anti-litter campaign, is getting a 21st century makeover.

Texas Department of Transportation officials announced Tuesday that they had retooled the appeal to persuade the state's worst litterers -- young adults ages 16 to 34, according to TxDOT -- to dispose of trash in receptacles. The new campaign will include red, white, and blue "Don't mess with Texas" trash cans, hundreds of which will appear at the state's rest stops, popular tourist attractions and stadiums to remind Texans to dispose of their cigarettes, food containers, plastic bags and candy wrappers.

Litter costs billions to pick up nationally each year, and in Texas the state picks up trash along more than 80,000 miles of state-maintained roadways.

A 2009 TxDOT study found that about 1.1 million items accumulate annually on Texas-maintained roads, including the interstates, U.S. highways, state highways and farm-to-market roads.

Littering is against state law, and violators can be fined up to \$500 for the first offense. Repeat offenders can face fines of up to \$2,000 and 180 days in jail. □

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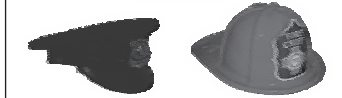
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Obama proposes \$100M for brain mapping project

**MALCOLM RITTER
NEDRA PICKLER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Tuesday proposed an effort to map the brain's activity in unprecedented detail, as a step toward finding better ways to treat such conditions as Alzheimer's, autism, stroke and traumatic brain injuries. He asked Congress to spend \$100 million next year to start a project that will explore details of the brain, which contains 100 billion cells and trillions of connections.

That is a relatively small investment for the federal government — less than a fifth of what NASA spends every year just to study the sun — but it is too early to determine how Congress will react.

Obama said the so-called BRAIN Initiative could create jobs, and told scientists gathered at the White House that the research has the potential to improve the lives of billions of people worldwide.

"As humans we can identify galaxies light-years away," Obama said. "We can study particles smaller than an atom, but we still haven't unlocked the mystery of the three pounds of matter that sits between our ears."

Scientists unconnected to the project praised the idea.

BRAIN stands for Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies. The idea, which Obama first proposed in his State of the Union address, would require the development of new technology that can record the electrical activity of individual cells and complex neu-



President Barack Obama responds to a comment as he is introduced in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, April 2, 2013, where he announced the BRAIN, Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies proposal. Associated Press

ral circuits in the brain "at the speed of thought," the White House said.

Obama wants the initial \$100 million investment to support research at the National Institutes of Health, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Science Foundation. He also wants private companies, universities and philanthropists to partner with the federal agencies in support of the research. And he wants a study of the ethical, legal and societal implications of the research.

The goals of the work are unclear at this point. A working group at NIH, co-chaired by Cornelia "Cori" Bargmann of The Rockefeller University and William Newsome of Stanford University, would work on defining the goals and develop a multi-year plan to achieve them that included cost estimates.

The \$100 million request is "a pretty good start for

getting this project off the ground," Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health told reporters in a conference call. While the ultimate goal applies to the human brain, some work will be done in simpler systems of the brains of animals like worms, flies and mice, he said.

Collins said new understandings about how the brain works may also provide leads for developing better computers.

Brain scientists unconnected with the project were enthusiastic.

"This is spectacular," said David Fitzpatrick, scientific director and chief ex-

ecutive of the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience, which focuses on studying neural circuits and structures.

While current brain-scanning technologies can reveal the average activity of large populations of brain cells, the new project is aimed at tracking activity down to the individual cell and the tiny details of cell connections, he said. It's "an entirely different scale," he said, and one that can pay off someday in treatments for a long list of neurological and psychiatric disorders including schizophrenia, Parkinson's, depression, epilepsy and autism. □

Sumatran rhino footprints believed found on Borneo



In this undated photo released by the WWF-Indonesia, a scientist measures a footprint which is believed to be of a Sumatran rhino in a forest in Kutai Barat, East Kalimantan province, Indonesia. Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Several footprints believed to be from critically endangered Sumatran rhino have been found on Indonesia's Borneo island, raising hopes for the existence of an animal long thought to be extinct in that area, a conservation group said Thursday. The fresh tracks were discovered in February while

a WWF team was monitoring orangutans in West Kutai forested district of East Kalimantan province, according to a statement. A follow-up survey carried out by the team, along with government forestry officials and scientists from Mulawarman University, discovered more footprints, horn scratches at mud holes, trees used

as rubbing posts and bite marks on plants. But the number of potential animals remains unclear. The rhino has been thought to be extinct on Indonesia's part of Borneo since the 1990s.

Fewer than 200 animals still live in the wild in Indonesia and Malaysia, threatened by loss of habitat and poaching. □

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Lohan plays April Fools' joke with pregnancy tweet

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan isn't going to be a mother, yet.

The actress confirmed Tuesday morning that a cryptic late-night Twitter posting hours earlier that stated she was pregnant was an April Fools' Day prank.

The "Liz & Dick" star's proclamation that she was expecting a child caused a frenzy on social media, and several entertainment news outlets reported the tweet while raising the possibility it was a prank.

On Tuesday morning Lohan deleted the tweet



and wrote that she was having some fun. The actress wrote, "Where's everyone's sense of humor?" Calls to Lohan's attorney Mark Jay Heller and her publicist were not returned. The 26-year-old has until May to enroll in a lockdown rehab to satisfy her sentence in a reckless driving and lying to police case. □

This Feb. 6, 2013 file photo shows actress Lindsay Lohan attending amfAR's New York gala at Cipriani Wall Street in New York.

Associated Press

Michael Jackson civil case jury selection begins

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jury selection began Tuesday in a lawsuit filed by Michael Jackson's mother against the promoter of the late pop star's planned comeback concerts.

Dozens of prospective jurors answered written questionnaires that gauged their ability to serve on the trial, which may last three months. One 24-page section of the questionnaire focused on each person's knowledge and opinions on Jackson's life, his music, his family, as well as media coverage and whether they would have a problem deciding a multimillion-dollar case.

Katherine Jackson's case accuses concert giant AEG Live of failing to properly investigate the former doctor who was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for the superstar's June 2009 death. AEG has denied wrongdoing and its attorney, Marvin Putnam, has said the company could not have foreseen circumstances that led to Jackson dying from an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol.

The trial will revisit the singer's final days, as well as his struggles with insomnia and prescription drugs.

Jackson's family is seek-



In this April 27, 2011 file photo, Katherine Jackson poses for a portrait in Calabasas, Calif. Jury selection began Tuesday April 2, 2013 in Katherine Jackson's civil lawsuit against concert giant AEG Live over allegations the company failed to properly investigate the doctor convicted of involuntary manslaughter for the singer's 2009 death.

Associated Press

ing \$40 billion, but jurors will determine any damage amounts awarded. If they award damages, jurors will have to determine how much responsibility AEG Live has for Jackson's death. The panel also could determine that the pop superstar was responsible for his own demise and limit the amount his family can collect.

The court proceedings, though routine, drew interest from fans and media outlets, who parked satellite trucks and cameras outside the courthouse. Katherine Jackson, who sued AEG in 2010 and has had her case trimmed to a single allegation of negligent hiring and supervision, did not attend the first day of jury selection. □



In this April 19, 2007 file photo, U.S. singer Madonna carries her Malawian adopted son David Banda at Consol Homes, a day care center that she is funding in the village of Masekese, Malawi.

Associated Press

Madonna opens Malawi school project

RAPHAEL TENTHANI

Associated Press

KASUNGU, Malawi (AP)

— Schoolchildren joined by hundreds of villagers danced around pop diva Madonna and serenaded her with praise songs on Tuesday as she inspected school blocks she helped to construct in the central Kasungu district.

"Zikomo! (Thank you!)" said the singer as the Malawians people danced around her at Nkoko Primary School where she worked with the non-profit organization, BuildOn, to build classrooms.

Madonna initially planned to build a \$15 million 500-bed Raising Malawi Academy for girls, before changing plans to help fund sev-

eral community schools to benefit more Malawians. She arrived in Malawi Monday to tour the 10 school wings she has helped to build.

"I love Malawi, I am committed to help end poverty here," she said.

Madonna is the "biggest global philanthropist" Malawi has ever had, said Trevor Neilson, president of the Global Philanthropy Group that is managing the pop star's projects in Malawi. She is exploring more projects she can work on in Malawi, said Neilson.

Madonna's efforts have provided new classrooms for more than 4,000 children who previously were learning under trees. □

DeGeneres hooked for 'Nemo' sequel 'Finding Dory'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ellen DeGeneres is going fishing again with a sequel to the animated blockbuster "Finding Nemo."

Disney and its Pixar Animation unit announced Tuesday that DeGeneres will reprise her "Nemo" voice role for "Finding Dory." The sequel is due out Nov. 25, 2015, and will be directed by Andrew Stanton, who also made "Finding Nemo."

The new film picks up about a year after the action of "Finding Nemo," with DeGeneres' forgetful fish Dory on her own adventure to reunite with loved ones.

According to Disney, the film will feature new characters along with familiar ones, including Nemo and his dad, Marlin, who was voiced by Albert Brooks. There's no word yet from Disney on whether Brooks will reprise his voice role. □

Actress Kate Hudson empowers teens at summit

STACY A. ANDERSON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Actress-producer Kate Hudson says the pressure of stepping out of the shadow of her movie star mother Goldie Hawn was discouraging and daunting.

She advised girls to take a chance on their own talent and take risks as they choose a career path. Hudson spoke at the AN-Npower Leadership Forum, a week-long program that unites teens from across the country with women leaders in business, entertainment and nonprofit.

The "Almost Famous" star and Ann Taylor spokeswoman is a member of the advisory council that mentors the girls and recommends grants for community projects, from a



In this Aug. 29, 2012 file photo, actress Kate Hudson poses for photographers as she arrives for the news conference in Venice, Italy.

Associated Press

healthy eating program to a clothing collection drive. Joining the actress were Ann Inc. chief executive Kay Krill and Washington non-profit Vital Voices Global Partnership chief executive Alyse Nelson. □

Sheriff: Carbon monoxide killed TV star

CHARLESTON, West Virginia

(AP) — Au-

thorities in West Virginia say a star of the MTV reality show "BUCKWILD" and two passengers all died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Twenty-one-year-old Shain Gande, his uncle and another passenger were found dead Monday. Gande's 1984 Ford Bronco was stuck in a mud hole, its tail pipe submerged. It's possible the gas could

have filled the cabin because of the clogged exhaust pipe. Sheriffs say autopsies completed Tuesday confirmed the three men died from the gas.

Their deaths have been ruled accidental.



This Jan. 2, 2013 file photo shows Shain Gande, from MTV's "Buckwild" reality series in New York.

Associated Press

The victims' bodies have been released to funeral homes, but no arrangements have yet been announced. Shooting for the second season of the show set around Sissonville and Charleston has been suspended. □



This March 21, 2013 photo shows Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen poses for a portrait in New York. Mikkelsen stars as Dr. Hannibal Lecter in the new series "Hannibal," premiering Thursday, April 4, at 10 p.m. on NBC.

Associated Press

A tasty turn by Mads Mikkelsen as NBC's 'Hannibal'

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's fair to say that Mads Mikkelsen dines out on his new starring role.

He plays the title character in NBC's new grisly gourmet drama, "Hannibal," which focuses on Dr. Hannibal Lecter — scholar, connoisseur, cannibal — during an earlier, more nuanced time than was covered in the hit film "The Silence of the Lambs" and its sequel. No surprise: When Mikkelsen was offered the role, he hesitated to bite.

"It's been done to perfection," he says, citing the indelible performance of Anthony Hopkins. "What could we add?"

Turns out, quite a lot.

Unlike Hopkins' Hannibal, Mikkelsen's version isn't "a madman in a (jail) cell. He's out in the world, where he can make friends and help people feel comfortable." In short,

he's fully able to pass in polite society, as he must — especially if the series (which premieres Thursday at 10 p.m. EDT) hopes to last.

"He's not a classic psychopath or a classic serial killer," adds Mikkelsen. "I believe that he's as close

to Satan as can be — the fallen angel. He sees the beauty in death. And every day is a new day, full of opportunities."

Dr. Lecter is just one member of the series' motley trio. This brilliant psychiatrist is recruited to counsel a gifted but tormented criminal profiler, Will Graham (played by Hugh Dancy), who can see into the minds of serial killers and is haunted by what he sees. Special Agent Jack Crawford (played by Laurence Fishburne) is head of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit, and he's counting on Lecter to keep Will on course.

Together they unite (or appear to) on a mission to track down ghastly serial killers — with neither Jack nor Will dreaming that the most depraved offender is part of their team.

This knotty alliance is what captured Mikkelsen's interest. When he first met with series creator Bryan Fuller ("Pushing Daisies"), he heard much talk "about this whole bro-mance thing between Hannibal and Will, and it sounded really cool," he says. "The relationship between all these characters is what's actually fundamental to

the story, not the individual cases."

There are scenes of startling grisliness.

There are also scenes of gruesome humor, as when Lecter — a gourmet cook — serves elegant dinners to appreciative guests (including Will and Jack) whose key ingredients are human body parts, prepared with such culinary camouflage they look mouthwatering even to the well-aware audience. But some of the most gripping scenes are simple conversations between Hannibal and Will — his associate, patient and odd-couple chum.

In one scene, he tries to console Will, who is traumatized after shooting a suspect.

"I LIKED killing Hobbs," Will confesses with self-loathing.

"Killing must feel good to God, too. He does it all the time," says Lecter gently. "And are we not created in his image?"

Mikkelsen has come up with a robust back story for Hannibal: born in Lithuania. Educated in Paris and England. Refined and intellectual and even a bit of a snob, but a good host and excellent company. □

Marriage Looks Different Now



ROSS DOUTHAT
© 2013 New York Times

In 1997, two prominent conservative writers, David Frum and Andrew Sullivan, debated same-sex marriage for the online magazine Slate.

Frum defended what was then the consensus conservative (and consensus national) position. Redefining marriage to include same-sex couples, he argued, would explicitly sever the institution's connection to the two interrelated realities, gender difference and procreation, that it had evolved to address. In so doing, it would replace a traditional view of matrimony with a broader, thinner, more adult-centric view, which would ultimately be less likely to bind parents to children, husbands to wives.

"Proponents of gay marriage can only get what they want," Frum wrote, "by weakening Americans' attachment to the traditional family even more than it has already been weakened," and speeding the "process of social dissolution" that the 1960s and 1970s began.

Sullivan countered that the "process" Frum feared was simply an established fact. Heterosexuals had already severed marriage from procreation and permanence, and so there was no more reason to deny same-sex couples marriage licenses than to deny them to the infertile and elderly. Indeed, far from being radical, gay marriage was more likely to be stabilizing, "sending a message about matrimonial responsibility and mutual caring" to gays and straights alike.

Half a generation later, Sullivan's view has carried the day almost completely.

The conservative argument still has serious exponents, but it's now chuckled at in courtrooms, dismissed by intellectuals, mocked in the media and (in a sudden, recent rush) abandoned by politicians. Indeed, it has been abandoned by Frum himself, who is now energetically urging Republicans to embrace the redefinition of marriage he once warned against.

Yet for an argument that has persuaded so few, the conservative view has actually had decent predictive power. As the cause of gay marriage has pressed forward, the social link between marriage and childbearing has indeed weakened faster than before.

As the public's shift on the issue has accelerated, so has marriage's overall decline.

Since Frum warned that gay marriage could advance only at traditional wedlock's expense, the marriage rate has been falling faster, the out-of-wedlock birthrate has been rising faster, and the substitution of cohabi-

tation for marriage has markedly increased. Underlying these trends is a steady shift in values: Americans are less likely to see children as important to marriage and less likely to see marriage as important to childbearing (the generation gap on gay marriage shows up on unwed parenting as well) than even in the very recent past.

Correlations do not, of course, establish causation. The economy is obviously playing a leading role in the retreat from marriage – the shocks of recession, the stagnation of wages, the bleak prospects of blue-collar men. Culturally, what matters most is the emergence of what the National Marriage Project calls a "capstone" understanding of marriage, which treats wedlock less as a foundation for adulthood and more as a celebration of adult achievement – and which seems to work out far better for our disciplined upper class than for society as a whole.

But there is also a certain willful naivete to the idea that the advance of gay marriage is unrelated to any other marital trend. For 10 years, America's only major public debate about marriage and family has featured one side – judges and journalists, celebrities and now finally politicians – pressing the case that modern marriage has nothing to do with the way human beings reproduce themselves, that the procreative understanding of the institution was founded entirely on prejudice, and that the shift away from a male-female marital ideal is analogous to the end of segregation.

Now that this argument seems on its way to victory, is it really plausible that it has changed how Americans view gay relationships while leaving all other ideas about matrimony untouched?

You can tell this naivete is willful because it's selective. There are plenty of interesting arguments, often from gay writers, about how the march to gay marriage might be influencing heterosexual norms – from Alex Ross' recent musings in *The New Yorker* on the sudden "queer vibe" in straight pop culture to Dan Savage's famous argument that straights might do well to imitate the "monogamish" norms of some gay male couples. It's only the claim that this influence might not always be positive that is dismissed as bigotry and unreason.

A more honest, less triumphalist case for gay marriage would be willing to concede that, yes, there might be some social costs to redefining marriage. It would simply argue that those costs are too diffuse and hard to quantify to outweigh the immediate benefits of recognizing gay couples' love and commitment.

Such honesty would make social liberals more magnanimous in what looks increasingly like victory, and less likely to hound and harass religious institutions that still want to elevate and defend the older marital ideal.

But whether people think they're on the side of God or of History, magnanimity has rarely been a feature of the culture war. □



The Republicans' Diversity Deserts



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2013 New York Times

Well, that didn't take long. Just a week ago, the Republicans issued their much-ballyhooed "autopsy" on why they lost the presidential election last year and how they might remedy their problems. They concluded that their principles were fine; the problem was how they presented them. Their witless wisdom is simply to tone down their rhetoric. They want to turn Teddy Roosevelt's famous saying on its side: Talk softly but carry a big stigma.

The establishment Republicans' push for a softer tone, however, is pure political scheming and has nothing to do with what most Republicans seem to fundamentally believe.

And many rank-and-file Republicans are adopting this two-faced tactic.

A Pew Research Center report issued Thursday found that although most Republicans say that "illegal immigrants" should be allowed to stay in this country legally, most also believe that immigrants are a burden because they take jobs and health care, and they threaten American values.

Try as you may, you can't build a philosophical facade like a movie set – convincing in ap-

pearance, but having no real structure behind it – and expect it to forever fool and never fall.

The true convictions of your heart will, eventually, be betrayed by the disobedience of your tongue. Enter Don Young of Alaska, a Republican congressman for the past 40 years, who this week used a racial slur so vile and insensitive that it was hard to remember what decade we were in.

In an interview Thursday with an Alaska radio station, Young reminisced about his family's employment of Mexican farm workers:

"My father had a ranch. We used to hire 50 to 60 wetbacks to pick tomatoes. You know, it takes two people to pick the same tomatoes now. It's all done by machine."

The casual reference dripped with an inculcated insensitivity.

The same day, Young's office issued a statement, which should in no way be misconstrued as an apology.

"During a sit-down interview with Ketchikan Public Radio this week, I used a term that was commonly used during my days growing up on a farm in Central California," Young said in the statement. "I know that this term is not used in the same way nowadays and I meant no disrespect."

No disrespect? Only a man drained of empathy could even make such a claim.

It wasn't until Friday, after demands from Republican leaders like John Boehner and John McCain, that Young issued a real apology. But the damage may have already been done. These kinds of statements cement an image of a callous party moving contrary to public consciousness.

The question must be asked: Why do so many insensitive comments come from these Republicans? One reason may well be their proximity problem.

Too many House Republican districts are isolated in naturally

homogeneous areas or gerrymandered ghettos, so elected officials there rarely hear – or see – the great and growing diversity of this country and the infusion of energy and ideas and art with which it enriches us. These districts produce representatives unaccountable to the confluence. And this will likely be the case for the next decade.

For instance, according to the Census Bureau, about 6 percent of Alaska's population is Hispanic and just 3 percent is black. And Alaska is among the most Republican states in the union, according to a Gallup report issued last year.

Too many House Republicans have districts like Young's, dominated by narrow, single-note, ideology-driven constituencies who see an ever expanding "them" threatening the heritage of a slowing shrinking "us."

This defensive posture is what so poisons the Republicans' presidential ambitions. Instead of embracing change, Republicans want to suspend or in some cases reverse it. But the principle articulated by the Greek philosopher Heraclitus rings true: the only thing constant is change.

With the exception of a few districts, a map of the areas in this country with the fewest minorities looks strikingly similar to a map of the areas from which congressional Republicans hail.

In fact, although this is the most diverse Congress in history, not one of the blacks or Asians in the House is a Republican. Only about a sixth of the Hispanics are Republicans, and fewer than a third of the women are.

The Republican Party has a severe minority problem. People like Don Young only serve to illustrate and amplify it. Young is another unfortunate poster child for a party fighting an image of being chronically hostile to "otherness." No disrespect. □

Louis Vuitton's iconic Alma bag:

"Chic on the bridge" in new advertising campaign



ORANJESTAD/PARIS - "Chic on the bridge" is the intriguing tagline of Louis Vuitton's latest advertising campaign, which stars the iconic Alma bag, created in 1934. The Alma is among the iconic bags on display at Aruba's exclusive Louis Vuitton boutique located at Renaissance Mall in Oranjestad, which features iconic designs as well as the trendiest pieces from the Maison's latest collections. In a total of four visuals shot by Steven Klein, the new advertising campaign depicts a group of dynamic



ing - as the ultimate sign of recognition - a Louis Vuitton Alma bag in the emblematic color of their destination. The Alma, whose bold architectural lines reflect the influence of the Art Deco movement of the 1930s, is perhaps the most quintessentially Parisian of Louis Vuitton icons. Created as the "Squire Bag" by Gaston-Louis Vuitton, it was also known as the

and Shanghai. Each time, the glamorous "gang", played to perfection by models KarlieKloss, DariaS-



française, carried around the world by the collective energy of the four friends. In Paris, the models rendezvous on the Pont du Carrousel with the Louvre in the background (a discreet nod to Louis Vuitton's ongoing "Invitation au

In the fourth and final visual, the campaign comes full circle, with the models returning to Paris in a spectacular night-time shot showcasing the rainbow colors of Epi leather. With its underlying theme of travel, this striking new



young women who travel the world and meet up in three cities: Paris, New York

trokous, JacJagaciak and Iris Strubegger, meets up on a landmark bridge, carry-



"Champs-Élysées" before being named the "Alma", after the elegant, tree-lined square - prolonged by the bridge of the same name - where the Avenue Montaigne meets the Seine. In the "Chic on the bridge" campaign, the Alma is more than ever a symbol of elegance à la

voyage" campaign), holding Alma bags in quintessentially French blue Epi leather. In New York, they pose on Brooklyn Bridge with Almas in the legendary yellow of the city's taxis, while on Shanghai's Waibaidu Bridge, glossy red Monogram Vernis evokes Chinese lacquer.

campaign subtly alludes to Louis Vuitton's heritage, while the historic Alma bag - featuring alongside key looks from the Prefall 2013 ready-to-wear collection - symbolically bridges the gap between the origins of the Maison and its current status as one of the world's leading fashion houses. □